CORRESPONDENCE

WITH THE

SUPERINTENDENT OF BRITISH TRADE

IN

CHINA,

UPON THE SUBJECT OF

EMIGRATION

FROM THAT COUNTRY.

Presented to the House of Commons by Command of Her Majesty.
August 20, 1853.

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Ms. Rowena T Robinson

on 29 March, 2019

Correspondence with the Superintendent of British Trade in China, upon the subject of Emigration from that Country.

No. 1.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Dr. Bowring.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 12, 1852.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a set of questions respecting emigration from China which I have to instruct you to forward to the British Consuls at the several ports, with directions to return answers to them with as little delay as possible.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MALMESBURY.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Questions for Circulation among the Consuls in China.

1. HAS any emigration taken place within the last few years from the port of ? If so, to what extent?

2. Is the emigration from sanctioned or connived at by the local authorities? Are any obstacles thrown in the way of intending emigrants?

3. Are the inhabitants of the districts adjoining to in your opinion well fitted for labour in a tropical climate, like that of the West Indies?

4. What is the average rate of pay per diem for agricultural labour in and near ?

5. What is the general character of the people of as regards industry and capacity for labour?

6. In the event of an emigration taking place on a large scale, is it likely that men of respectable character and industrious habits would join it, or only the refuse of the population?

7. In the same event is it likely that emigrants would take with them their families, and settle altogether out of China, or would they go alone, and with a view of returning?

8. What would be the expense, at present rates, of shipping male adult emigrants for the West Indies *viâ* Cape Horn per man?

9. Would emigrants going out enter into contracts, pledging themselves to work at certain rates for the same parties? Or, in your judgment, would it be more desirable to leave them wholly free and unfettered?

10. What would be the average time required for a passage from to the West Indies?

11. State generally any facts bearing on the question of Chinese Emigration to the West Indies which may occur to you as important, and which are not mentioned in the preceding queries.

No. 2.

Dr. Bowring to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received July 16.)

My Lord, *Hong Kong, May 17, 1852.*

HER Majesty's Consuls both at Shanghae and Amoy have lately received applications from the American authorities for the assistance of Her Majesty's ships in recovering a vessel belonging to the United States, the "Robert Bowne." She left Amoy for San Francisco, loaded with coolies. After being ten days at sea, the coolies rose, murdered the captain, mate, and others, and took possession of the vessel. The assistance asked was readily given; and Her Majesty's ship "Contest," from Shanghae, and Her Majesty's ship "Lily," and the Honourable Company's steamer "Semiramis," from Amoy, went in search of the "Robert Bowne;" she had, however, in the meanwhile, been retaken possession of by a part of her crew, and brought into Amoy. Thus, no absolute service was rendered by Her Majesty's ships; but we had an opportunity of showing the friendly disposition of Her Majesty's servants in China; and they have received grateful acknowledgments from the Chargé d'Affaires and Consular authorities of the United States. I have had great pleasure on my part in conveying to Consuls Alcock and Sullivan my full approval of their conduct on this occasion.

Cases similar to that of the "Robert Bowne" have been of frequent occurrence of late. Several captains and mates have been murdered, and the vessels taken possession of by the coolies. I believe there are few instances in which the commanders have not been blameworthy in a very high degree, their conduct to the coolies having been most cruel and despotic. It appears in this case, from the depositions, that the captain of the "Robert Bowne," on the plea of cleanliness, cut off the tails of a very large number of the Chinese (an indignity quite equal to that which the cutting off the noses and ears would be to Englishmen), and had their bodies scrubbed with hard brooms. This was too much for Chinese endurance, and the results are certainly not to be wondered at.

Official interference is exceedingly difficult. The laws of China prohibit the expatriation and emigration of its subjects to foreign lands; but such is the pressure of the teeming population, that the outflow of Chinese labourers is increasing from year to year; and from this neighbourhood alone at least 20,000 have emigrated within a few months; the majority paying their own passages—the rest shipped for account of adventurers, hiring them for so many years' service, and disposing of their labour in the various countries to which they are destined. So powerless or unwilling are the Chinese authorities to interfere, that the great barracoons, where the coolies are collected at Amoy, almost touch the Custom-house. The Emigration Acts of the United States no doubt make adequate provision for the comfort and security of passengers, but it is to be feared they place very little restraint upon the cupidity of the shippers of coolies; and I suspect the most false and fraudulent misrepresentations are made by the Chinese crimps and brokers who collect the coolie population together for shipment. Shocking accounts have reached us of the sufferings of the coolies in the middle passage, on the Peruvian guano island, and some other localities.

The Chinese are generally docile and manageable if proper influences are used, but cannot be maltreated with impunity. The return from California of a few of them with small fortunes, and the representations of the boundless wealth of the golden mountain (California), have almost fanaticised the people. However, I have seen some signs of a coming reaction. One father, who had lost four sons—his whole race—who had gone forth in search of treasure, has already checked the emigrating disposition of a little district by his influence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

No. 3.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Dr. Bowring.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 21, 1852.

I HAVE to acquaint you in reply to your despatch of the 17th of May, that Her Majesty's Government approve of Her Majesty's Consular officers in China having, at the request of the American authorities, lent their assistance for the recovery of an American ship which had been taken possession of by Chinese emigrants who were embarked on board of her.

Her Majesty's Government are not ignorant of great irregularities having been committed in the transport of coolies from China in British ships, and a very painful case has lately been brought to their notice of great mortality having occurred among that class of persons embarked on board the British vessel "Lady Montague."

Another case, that of the British vessel "Susannah," has lately been brought to the notice of Her Majesty's Government.

The existing state of the British law unfortunately precludes any effectual interference with transactions of this kind; but Her Majesty's Government have under their consideration whether it may not be possible to frame some enactment to provide for such cases; and in the mean time it is their wish that the British authorities in China should pay close attention to the proceedings of British ships engaged in transporting coolies, and should adopt all legal means in their power to check abuses.

And Her Majesty's Government further desire that full reports may be sent home in regard to the manner in which the emigration of Chinese coolies is conducted, accompanied with any suggestions which may occur to Her Majesty's servants as calculated to put a stop to irregularities in the conduct of British shipmasters engaged in the business.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MALMESBURY.

No. 4.

Dr. Bowring to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received September 18.)

(Extract.) *Hong Kong, July* 16, 1852.

WE are informed that contracts—the number of coolies to be provided is variously stated as from 8,000 to 15,000 men—for shipment to the Havana have been entered into by British merchants at Amoy. The reports brought back to Amoy by the coolies who, after the murder of the captain and others, escaped from the United States vessel the "Robert Bowne," will make it less easy than before to ship such supplies of Chinamen.

Should the accounts from Australia be encouraging, it is by no means improbable that a considerable voluntary emigration may take place to those regions. I have heard already of the emigration of several respectable Chinamen who have paid their own passages thither.

No. 5.

Dr. Bowring to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received October 15.)

My Lord, *Hong Kong, August* 3, 1852.

REFERRING to my despatch of the 17th of May on the subject of Coolie Emigration, I have to state to your Lordship that nine vessels measuring nearly 4,000 tons are reported as having reached Amoy for the purpose of conveying Chinese coolies to the West Indies.

Not having received on this special matter any instructions from the Foreign Office, and being without official information as to the general views of Her Majesty's Government, knowing nothing as to the extent in which tacit or

open sanction may have been conceded or denied to enterprises which are developing themselves on so vast a scale, I have thought it my duty to instruct Her Majesty's Consul at Amoy to obtain all information accessible to him for the purpose of communicating it to your Lordship, and inclose herewith copy of my letter to Mr. Consul Sullivan.

Your Lordship is aware that the self-expatriation of Chinese subjects is prohibited by Chinese law, and of course it would be quite competent to the native authorities at once to check or prevent emigration. But emigration has become so much a habit, and the idle, vagrant, and profligate population of the coast is a source of so much embarrassment to the Mandarins, that it is probable they will look rather with complacency than annoyance on the removal of the superfluous multitude. In fact, without proper precautions we may see the jails of China emptied to supply "labour" to British Colonies.

Such horrors, miseries, and atrocities of all sorts, such frightful mortality, such acts of piracy and murder have been associated with the transfer of coolies to foreign regions, that common humanity forbids the looking with indifference on what is taking place; and I see with deep regret, instead of a quiet, steady, and progressing system of well-digested emigration, giving time for the fit selection and becoming organization of proper bodies of Chinamen, we have a sudden irruption of a fleet of ships whose united presence is, I apprehend, likely to be eminently prejudicial to such arrangements as would be most beneficial to the honest interests of those concerned.

Contemporaneously with these proceedings, large contracts for the shipment of coolies for the Havana are now in the market. It is said that enormous profits have been already made by the transfer of such contracts to Chinese speculators, and aware as I am of the rapacity, recklessness, and inhumanity of this class of adventurers, the whole subject creates no small amount of anxiety in my mind.

I am disposed to think that with prudent, sober, and humane management, a body of useful labourers might be transferred to our colonies for the common benefit of all concerned, but without becoming precautions there will be only a result of disappointment and misery. Nothing can be more remarkable than the returns furnished from different quarters of the results of Chinese emigration. In some cases the misery has been extreme and the mortality frightful, in others whole cargoes have reached their destination almost without the loss of a man.

I have myself seen the arrangements for the shipment of coolies at Amoy: hundreds of them gathered together in barracoons, stripped naked, and stamped or painted with the letter C (California), P (Peru), or S (Sandwich Islands), on their breasts, according to the destination for which they were intended. A trifle advanced to give their hungriness food, a suit of clothes to cover their nudity, a dollar or two for their families, and candidates in abundance are found for transportation to any foreign land. But I need not point out the deterioration in quality which a sudden and large demand will produce, nor the impossibility under its pressure of doing what might and ought to be done to ensure the success and safety of the experiment.

The principal shipper of coolies is Mr. Tait, a British subject, who has all the advantages and influence which his being Spanish, Dutch, and Portuguese Consul gives him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Dr. Bowring to Consul Sullivan.

Sir, *Hong Kong, August* 3, 1852.

I OBSERVE in the shipping returns from Amoy the announcement of the arrival of a long list of vessels stated to be bound to the West Indies, and which, I suppose, are intended to convey coolies thither. As this wholesale emigration, suddenly undertaken on so vast a scale, will certainly excite much attention, I have to request you will convey to me all accessible information on the subject; as to the arrangements made for the supply of coolies; the manner

in which they are obtained and treated on shore; the accommodation provided on board; the particulars of the contracts entered into; the knowledge which the coolies have of such contracts; the reputation of the Chinese contractors; and the general character of the coolies shipped. As no letter has been received by me from the home authorities showing that Her Majesty's Government have official cognizance of what is taking place, and I have had no instructions either to assist or in any way to interfere with these vast plans of emigration, I have at present only to request that you will keep me accurately advised of all that is taking place. I need not remind you that a vast mass of human interests, human misery, and consequent responsibility are involved, nor call to your recollection the wretchedness and crime which have been associated with the transport of coolies. But I cannot doubt that it will be expected from Her Majesty's functionaries in China to keep a strict watch on, and to make a detailed report of what is going forward, a duty which I confidently commend to your special charge.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

No. 6.

Dr. Bowring to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received November 15.)

My Lord, *Hong Kong, September 7, 1852.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's despatch of 21st July last, on the subject of the emigration of Chinese coolies.

I caused the despatch under acknowledgment to be placed in the hands of the Colonial Secretary, unofficially however, being anxious to avoid the semblance of interference with Colonial legislation, and am assured that, as regards the Port of Hong Kong, measures will be taken, as far as possible, to control abuses.

With respect to the Consular Ports, I have caused the notification of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, to be published. Your Lordship will have seen by my despatches that I have not been inattentive to this topic. I fear, however, many of the irregularities and iniquities are beyond the reach of any existing legislation; and involved as the matter is with the rights and interests and laws of other nations, the difficulties are many, and they are greatly augmented by our isolation from and non-intercourse with the authorities of China.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

Inclosure in No. 6.

Government Notification.

HIS Excellency Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary and Superintendent of British Trade, &c., is pleased to direct that the annexed Circular No. 22, to the address of Her Majesty's Consuls and Vice-Consuls in China, be published for general information.

By order,
(Signed) FREDERICK HARVEY.
Victoria, Hong Kong, September 7, 1852.

Circular No. 22 of 1852.

Superintendency of Trade,
Sir, *Hong Kong, September 7, 1852.*

THE attention of Her Majesty's Government has been lately called to the subject of the transport of coolies from China in British vessels; and the details which have been officially communicated of the irregularities practised, and the sufferings to which the emigrants have been frequently subjected, are of a

character so painful as to have awakened the strongest solicitude on the part of the Home authorities, and an earnest desire to prevent, as far as possible, the repetition of such abuses.

I am instructed by the Right Honourable the Earl of Malmesbury to call upon all British authorities in China strictly to watch the proceedings of British shipmasters engaged in the transport of coolies, and to adopt all legal means in their power in order to check irregularities.

Her Majesty's Government further desire that you will convey full and detailed reports as to the manner in which the emigration of Chinese coolies is conducted, and that you will accompany such reports with any suggestions by which the malpractices of British shipmasters engaged in the transport of Chinese coolies are likely to be controlled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

No. 7.

Dr. Bowring to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received November 15.)

(Extract.) *Hong Kong, September 13, 1852.*

THERE is at present no passion for emigration to Australia; but should the Chinamen who have gone thither report favourably as to the prospects for settlers, there will be no want of a supply of voluntary emigrants able and willing to pay for their passage, and they would, of course, be of a very superior class to those collected together by crimping agents careless of all consideration except their own pecuniary profits.

No. 8.

Dr. Bowring to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received November 15.)

My Lord, *Hong Kong, September 25, 1852.*

IN reference to your Lordship's despatch of June 12 last, directing that certain queries should be sent to the various Consulates, with the view of obtaining the best information as to the emigration of Chinese coolies, and of suggesting any remedial measures likely to put an end to existing abuses, and in furtherance of the instructions conveyed by your Lordship's despatch of July 21, I have now the honour to inclose—

1. Copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Elmslie, dated Canton, August 25, with one inclosure.

2. A note, dated August 26, full of valuable information, which has been furnished at my request by Dr. Charles Winchester, our first assistant in the Amoy Consulate, who, in the locality which supplies by far the largest portion of emigrants, has not only had much experience but has given special attention to the subject matter.

3. Copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Alcock, dated Shanghae, September 1.

From Foo-chow-foo, Mr. Vice-Consul Walker writes that there is no disposition in that neighbourhood to emigration, that the population not being maritime have little knowledge of and little confidence in foreigners, and that should any willingness to quit China be exhibited by the people, it would be immediately checked and condemned.

I have not yet received the official reports from Amoy and Ningpo.

The question (with reference to legislation) is full of difficulties, not (it appears to me) as regards jurisdiction over British ships and subjects, for they, if violating the law, would be responsible to consular authority, within 100 miles of the coast; but as no aid or co-operation could be calculated on from the Chinese authorities, and as abundant places of shipment are everywhere to be found (the opium stations all along the coast, for example) where there is no consular representative, I am afraid little can be done in China to check the frauds and irregularities to which the cupidity of the Chinese crimps and agents

is so disposed to minister. Strong legislative enactments, or orders in council, might be held *in terrorem* over British offenders; but as far as foreign ships and foreign States are concerned, nothing but co-operation, zealous and honest, with Her Majesty's Government, will prevent the existence of the grossest abuses and abominations, though no amount of co-operation will, it is to be feared, wholly put a stop to the malpractices which are associated with the trade.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 8.

Consul Elmslie to Dr. Bowring.

Sir; *Canton, August* 25, 1852.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Excellency's despatch of the 5th instant, inclosing certain queries on the subject of emigration from China, and I now beg to subjoin such information as I have been enabled to collect on the subject.

1. *Q.* Has any emigration taken place within the last few years from the port of Canton? If so, to what extent?—*A.* Emigration has within the last few years taken place from this port to a considerable extent; but although the emigrants are shipped at Whampoa, Cumsing, Macao, and Hong Kong, I shall consider them as belonging to Canton and the surrounding districts. In 1848 about 10 Chinese emigrated to California; in 1849 about 900; in 1850 about 3,118; in 1851 about 3,508; and during the first six months of 1852, 15,000 left Whampoa, Cumsing, Macao, and Hong Kong for California. In addition to these about 2,025 coolies have emigrated to South America, where, on arrival, they are generally hired out to the Peruvian Government, and employed on various Government works. A large portion of the coolies, however, are sent to dig the guano on Chincha Island, where, from the nature of the labour, they either speedily die or undergo excessive misery and suffering. Many have been known to commit suicide. The coolie traffic to South America seems now at an end, for since the three successive outrages which occurred on board the "Albert," "Victory," and "Robert Bowne," no vessel can be obtained to proceed on that service, although many orders are in the market.

2. *Q.* Is the emigration from Canton sanctioned or connived at by the local authorities? Are any obstacles thrown in the way of intending emigrants?—*A.* The authorities do not interfere in any way whatever with emigration; all measures connected with the system are carried on openly. Placards are distributed all over the country notifying the departure of vessels for California, and inviting persons to avail themselves of the opportunities thus afforded for proceeding thither. No obstacles are thrown in the way of intending emigration.

3. *Q.* Are the inhabitants of the districts adjoining to Canton in your opinion well fitted for labour in a tropical climate, like that of the West Indies?—*A.* The Canton people are the strongest, most intelligent and sagacious, and the most industrious and thrifty of all the Chinese. They work hard, live orderly, and take care of themselves, are more clannish than any other people in China, and are I should think the very best adapted for labour in the West Indies.

4. *Q.* What is the average rate of pay per diem for agricultural labour in and near Canton?—*A.* The Chinese live in such a patriarchal manner that it is somewhat difficult to answer this question: two dollars per mensem, with their rice, is the outside.

5. *Q.* What is the general character of the people of Canton as regards industry and capacity of labour?—*A.* Is answered by No. 3.

6. *Q.* In the event of an emigration taking place on a large scale, is it likely that men of respectable character and industrial habits would join it, or only the refuse of the population?—*A.* If to the West Indies, the emigrants would be agricultural labourers—by no means a degraded section of the people; and they would from their saving and industrious habits soon become landholders themselves, that is to say, if they liked the country.

7. *Q.* In the same event, is it likely that emigrants would take with them their families, and settle altogether out of China, or would they go alone, and with a view of returning?—*A.* Chinese women never emigrate. There is not a

China woman in the Straits Settlements, nor an honest one in Hong Kong. The emigrants would, I presume, cohabit with or marry the native females in the West Indies, as they do in the Straits, and educate their children according to Chinese usages. The strong affection which the Chinese have for their own country induces them to save all their earnings, and return home.

8. *Q.* What would be the expense, at present rates, of shipping male adult emigrants for the West Indies, *viâ* Cape Horn, per man?—*A.* A fair remuneration for a ship would be 10*l.* per man, besides the expense of fitting and food, which would probably amount to about 2*l.* 10*s.* or 3*l.* more. The vessel would of course proceed *viâ* the Cape of Good Hope, and not round the Horn.

9. *Q.* Would emigrants going out enter into contracts pledging themselves to work at certain rates for the same parties; or, in your judgment, would it be more desirable to leave them wholly free and unfettered?—*A.* Chinese emigrants will go under transferable indentures; but the Government should interfere and see that the terms of these are similar: and none should be sent free and unfettered; for a Chinese getting 4 dollars a-month will not work with another receiving 6 dollars. The emigrants now shipping at Amoy for the West Indies do so on contracts very favourable to themselves, viz., 4 dollars a-month, good lodgings, and a sufficient supply of wholesome food, besides medical attendance. The indentures are transferable. A copy is appended.

10. *Q.* What would be the average time required for a passage from Canton to the West Indies?—*A.* The passage from Canton to the West Indies would occupy from ninety to a hundred days by ordinary sailing ships *viâ* the Cape of Good Hope.

11. *Q.* State generally any facts bearing on the question of Chinese emigration to the West Indies which may occur to you as important, and which are not mentioned in the preceding queries.—*A.* A ship coming to China for emigrants need bring neither water-casks nor other fittings, for everything can be procured here much better and cheaper than elsewhere. Considerable emigration is now going on at Amoy for the West Indies; 8000 men are shipping for Havana, and 2000 for Demerara; a great many have already sailed. Emigration should take place from November to the 1st of March; firstly, to secure the favourable monsoon, and secondly, because the harvest-time is then over, and consequently emigrants are more easily procured. The provisions of the Passengers Act should be most stringently enforced, and the same protection extended to Chinese emigrants going to the West Indies as is afforded to the Irish going to New York; otherwise we shall soon find vessels sailing utterly regardless of any consideration except the amount of freight money they may make from the mass of human beings huddled and crowded together like slaves. Vast numbers of emigrants arrived in California last year in a shocking state of filth and loathsome disease, the ships being insufficiently provided with provisions and necessaries, and no care or attention whatever paid to the wants or requirements of the passengers, who were fed upon badly-cured fish, which soon became putrid, and Whampoa water. Many of the ships, however, which sailed from Hong Kong were fitted out at much expense, and supplied with good and wholesome provisions, and such of the emigrants as had the fortune to embark in these vessels were landed at California in health. No British ship should be permitted to leave a port in China unless she obtain from the Consul a certificate that the number of passengers embarked is not greater than the law permits, and also that she is well and sufficiently furnished with provisions, wood, and water, and is in all respects competent to undertake the voyage.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ADAM W. ELMSLIE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 8.

Copy of Indenture.

I , native of the village of , in the province of , in China, of the age of years, have agreed to embark in the vessel , with the object of proceeding to the colony of British Guiana, obliging myself from and after my arrival to dedicate myself there to the orders of the Honourable the Immigration Agent of that colony to whatever class of labour I may be destined, whether in plantation or other estates, during

the customary hours of work in that colony, or even at other than plantation labour, as may be most convenient to the Honourable the Immigration Agent, or whoever may become the holder of this engagement, and to perform said work for of salary monthly, maintenance of 8 ounces of beef, 1½ lbs. of other alimentary food daily, medical assistance and medicines, two suits of clothes, one blanket and one flannel shirt annually; it being agreed that in case of sickness, should it exceed fifteen days, my salary will be suspended until I return to work, continuing in the meanwhile to receive medicines and medical attendance; or in place of all the foregoing, that I shall receive per month, and find myself in all provisions and other necessaries, fulfilling these obligations for five years continuous, which are fixed for the term of this engagement, during which it shall not be permitted me to leave the colony, nor deny my services to the persons to whom this engagement may be transferred; at the end of that period I shall be at liberty to act as may seem to me best. My passage and maintenance on board of said vessel shall be on account of Messrs. , from whom I confess having received by Messrs. the sum of dollars in silver for my outfit for said voyage, and also two suits of new clothes with which to land, amounting to , on condition that both sums dollars I shall pay in Demerara to the order of Messrs. by one dollar monthly, which shall be deducted from my salary by the Honourable the Immigration Agent, or the persons to whom this engagement may be transferred, it being understood that on no other plea whatever shall anything be deducted from my wages, and in faith of fulfilling punctually this said obligation, I signed in this the day of 18 .

It is understood that the salary agreed shall commence to run from within twenty-four hours after landing at Demerara, unless both parties agree to cancel this agreement after arrival there.

Inclosure 3 in No. 8.

Note by Dr. Winchester.

THE emigration of Chinese from the port of Amoy is of two kinds, which may be termed native and foreign contract emigration. The former is partly voluntary, as when the parties leave to join prosperous friends who have established themselves as cultivators or artisans in the countries of the Malayan Archipelago. It is partly conducted by contract; supercargoes of Chinese origin, settled abroad, arrange with proprietors of estates to bring a certain number of labourers on their return voyage, and publish in their own family and neighbouring villages their readiness to provide passages for a certain number of hands. The agreement usually is, that in consideration of a free passage, the supercargo shall have the right to dispose of the services of the emigrant for a year. This of course brings him a good profit on the amount expended for the passage, which varies from 8 to 16 dollars, according as the voyage is to Singapore, Penang, or Batavia. The right for one year to the services of boys arriving from China can be purchased by Europeans in the Straits at a very small advance on the rates of passage money.

This system is, I believe coeval with emigration from Fo-kien, and its existence must have much facilitated the commencement of the emigration which has taken place under contracts with foreigners. The first shipment of coolies under contracts with foreigners was made from Amoy, in French vessels, to the Isle of Bourbon.

French supercargoes had been previously in the habit of engaging Chinamen in the Straits for that colony; when, in 1845, a clever speculator thought he could obtain the labour wanted at lower rates in the country of the emigrants, and accordingly, in 1845 and 1846, procured two separate shipments.

The total number of emigrants who have been induced to leave Amoy under foreign contracts, I estimate at 6,255 souls, who have been distributed as follows:—to Havana, 990; to Demerara, 469; to Isle Bourbon, 380; to Australia, 2,666; to Sandwich Islands, 380; to Batanhas, in the Philippine

group, 600; to California, probably for Peru, 350; to Peru, 420. The tonnage employed has been 10,756 tons, and is thus classified:—

7,836 under English colours have given passage to 3,946 emigrants, in the following subdivisions:—

1,120 tons	have conveyed	740 men to Havana.
961 tons	- -	469 men to Demerara.
4,835 tons	- -	2,666 men to Australia.
920 tons	- -	380 men to the Sandwich Islands.

1,250 Spanish tons have conveyed 850 men:—

350 tons	- -	250 men to Havana.
900 tons, steam	-	600 men to Batanhas.

540 French tons	have taken	380 men to Bourbon.
530 American tons	- -	350 men to San Francisco.
600 Peruvian tons	- -	420 men to Peru.

The annual distribution of the emigration is expressed as follows:—

1845	- -	180	
1846	- -	200	
1848	- -	120	
1849	- -	280	
1850	- -	1,000	
1851	- -	2,066	
1852, 8 months		1,739	

It is one of the pleasant fictions of the Chinese Government that no child of the great Emperor can withdraw himself from the paternal rule; and that to leave his dominions and settle elsewhere permanently is a crime. There is, therefore, a general prohibition of emigration, flowing as it were from the common law of the Imperial rule (I believe there is also a special enactment, but am ignorant of its date). There always has been a practical limit to the arbitrary authority of this Government, which is especially felt when it is brought in contact with considerable masses of the people. Injustice or cruelty to individuals scarcely excite the sympathy of a peculiarly selfish race; but so closely do village and clan ties unite considerable bodies of men, that general persecution is not often attempted, and frequently is successfully resisted. The over-population of China in years of scarcity occasions great anxiety to the local authorities, and often leads to their disgrace; for any commotions which arise from famine are almost certainly attributed to their neglect or mismanagement. The mandarins know well that emigration relieves the pressure of surplus population on the supplies of food, and deports wild and lawless vagabonds, who are better out of the country. The mandarins, therefore, dare not put any check on emigration; they also see that it is not for the public interests of their districts to do so, not to speak of the pecuniary interest which, some way or other, Chinese officers always contrive to find in the continuance of a forbidden practice. The mandarins, therefore, do connive at emigration, knowing that any attempt on their part to stop the flood of 50,000 hungry, able-bodied men, who annually leave the province, would probably lead to an insurrection. With the native emigration before them they will not attempt an interference with the foreign contract, which might bring with it the additional inconveniences of official correspondence, and a collision with foreign authorities. The only kind of interference to be apprehended from the local authorities is, on the commission of any crime connected with the system, the arrest of the subordinate Chinese crimps and agents, with the view of obtaining such a sum of money as will serve to propitiate their own superiors in the event of the circumstances spreading beyond the neighbourhood.

The inhabitants of Amoy are well fitted for labour in tropical regions. They endure well the heat of their own sun, whose rays in summer are fiercer than in any of the climates to which they have been removed. They are pinched up by the cold season here, which they dread rather than welcome. The labourers working on the fields wear no coverings to their heads even at midsummer. Inflammation from accidents is rare, and they recover from wounds with astonishing rapidity. Their fevers are usually of a typhoid type. I have not understood, from the experience of the Straits, that there they are more subject to febrile diseases than the Malays, while it has been noticed that they suffered proportionally much less from cholera. They are a good deal

subject to diseases connected with perverted nutrition, as tumours, wens, &c. The not unreasonable conclusion is that they are a race well adapted for labour in warm climates, and any comparison with the Indian coolies who have been sent to the West Indies would be a gross injustice to the Chinese.

The average wages of all labour at Amoy are very low, and there is not much variation between the rates paid for different kinds, skilled and unskilled. From 80 to 100 cash is the daily hire of an able-bodied man. The highest of these amounts is about equal to 4*d*. Double these sums is the wage of artizans, such as masons, carpenters, tailors, shoemakers, &c. A first-class agricultural labourer is on the footing of a skilled craftsman, and receives 160 cash or 6*d*. per diem; he is expected to understand sowing and reaping, ploughing and irrigating, the compounding of manures, liquid and solid (which is the great triumph of Chinese agriculture), and generally the entire culture of rice, wheat, millet, Indian corn, ground-nuts, peas, cabbage, ginger, sugar-cane, bringals, gourds, &c., &c.; his assistant labourers receive about 80 cash, or 3*d*. per diem. All board and lodge themselves. It ought to be observed that the holdings in China are much subdivided, seldom exceeding a few acres in size, and are usually cultivated by the owner or his sons.

The Chinese of this district are well made, and sufficiently robust and strong for ordinary agricultural labour, and when substantially fed their muscular systems are rapidly developed. They are slow over their work, but are proverbially industrious and persevering. The ordinary labourer, sprung of an enterprising race, with daily examples before him of men risen through emigration to affluence and comfort, is ambitious of elevating himself in the social scale, and hence also not indisposed to remove to foreign climes. He is not one of those content with a full belly, but looks forward to surround himself with a home and family. Amongst no people does the transformation from the labourer to the artizan class take place with more rapidity.

It is utterly improbable that under any circumstances men of respectable character, if by that term is understood reputable persons earning at home an easy livelihood, will be induced to join the emigration. The inducement held out by a removal to a distant and unknown country for wages not exceeding 3 dollars per mensem, clothes, and rations, is not a sufficient inducement to overcome the love of village and other ties in parties of the above description. It is certainly only the very poorest and the refuse of the population who have hitherto enrolled themselves in the emigration lists. The period since contract emigration has commenced has been too short to allow the return of any number of labourers with well-lined pockets. Until there are a sufficient number of instances of this nature to excite general notice, the labourer will depart under the impression that he is selling his services and person for a living. It may be, however, that in event of the return of Chinese successful in their new spheres of labour, a more respectable class will in the course of years be induced to emigrate, and that we may see the same class of emigrants leaving under foreign contract as that which now annually flocks to the Straits. Industry may be predicated generally of the Chinese, and is too habitual to their thoughts to leave any question in minds acquainted with the Chinese character as to even the present inferior class of contract emigrants yielding, under good treatment and favourable circumstances, a large average of industrious and quiet labourers.

The Chinese never emigrate with their families. It is a current report respecting the native emigration to the Company's settlements in the Straits, that though the annual number of male emigrants is at least 5,000, only one woman during the present century has gone there from China. Without affirming the report, its existence is sufficient to prove the rarity of the case. The wives of the poorest labourers in Amoy are small-footed women, so that the proportion of undeformed females is very small. Women with large feet are usually slaves, and may be bought and sold. Of this class 100 or 200 might be bought outright and shipped off annually, but such a practice would be an indelible stigma in the eyes of the Chinese. There is therefore no chance of labourers taking their families with them. One reason of the frequent return of Chinese from the Eastern Archipelago is their anxiety to form matrimonial connexions, and leave descendants in their native villages to maintain unbroken the chain of reverential honours paid to the ancestral tombs. I believe no Chinese ever leaves without the hope of returning. After the conclusion of the

contracts, or when advancing years preclude the expectation of continued labour on the part of the emigrant, some facilities should be given by the colony for the return of well-conducted labourers, as the best means of improving the character of the emigration. In Malay countries the Chinese readily formed connexions with the native women on their first arrival; their descendants constantly intermarry; so that in the course of years the mixture of alien blood rapidly disappears.

The expense of chartering a ship to go round Cape Horn would be pretty much the same as if the voyage were round the Cape of Good Hope; but a vessel could not possibly take so many passengers as by the latter route, and would probably not land them in so good a condition; the Chinese are bad sailors, and are withered up by the cold. In the continued stormy weather of the high latitudes it would be necessary to traverse, the hatches would require to be almost constantly battened down, and there would not be sufficient ventilation for the same number as might go with safety by the other Cape. The average length of passage would be much the same; but for these substantial reasons it is not to be anticipated that the Horn route will be generally adopted.

The emigrants will readily enter into contracts of work with particular parties; but these must be signed before leaving Amoy, and be sufficiently binding and transferable. They are not on the whole a faith-keeping people. They can be kept to a bargain if they see their own advantage in it, but require to be sharply looked after. They soon acquire an idea of the subtleties and scruples of our law, so far as it regards their own interests. I do not think it would be safe as a commercial speculation to leave the Chinese free and unfettered to seek work on their arrival in the West Indies, because I believe the stipulations of wages, clothes, and rations in the contracts to form the principal item of the inducement to emigrate. The bare intimation that plenty of labourers will find employment, and passage to a certain country where wages are so much and living cheap, would never rouse a Chinese idler from his sleep under the hot sun to undertake a distant voyage. It is the confidence he places in the contract of the white man that he is to be paid, clothed, and fed, as stated in the agreement, without trouble to himself, if he will only work. The expiry of the first contracts will determine as to the readiness of the Chinese to seek work (plantation work must be understood) for themselves; and if the experiment of seeking Chinese labour at the distance of half the globe is worth the trouble, it should not be endangered on a point which the experience of twelve or fifteen years will practically resolve.

As emigrant ships must be large and roomy between decks, and as speed ought scarcely to be such an object as the health and good condition of the passengers, it is believed that the sharp lines and low runs which have increased the velocity of our cargo-carrying ships will not be sought for in the emigrant trade. Twenty weeks, or about 140 days, would be a high average passage to any part of the West Indies for the least speedy class of vessels. Emigrant ships will always command rates of freight from a third to a half higher than they would as cargo carriers. The risk and expenses are much greater, and consist of the possibility of mutiny, and the larger supply of water-casks and tanks. Recent rates to Cuba have been about 5*l.* 10*s.* per ton, but the precise amount has been very properly made to depend on the number of emigrants landed at their destination from the ship.

The demand for emigrants gives employment to a number of crimps, who are dignified with the name of coolie brokers; one or two of these are in more confidential intercourse with the English merchant, and probably control the inferior agents. These latter themselves proceed or send out their scouts to the villages in the neighbourhood, and haunt the resorts of the poor and idle about the town. They distribute printed bills containing the terms of the contract, and act generally as touters. But one great temptation they hold out is, that they at once offer to supply plenty of food and lodgings for the day to every one willing to be mustered, whether he be eventually accepted of not. The coolies have hitherto generally been brought to the beach in front of the merchant's hong, and in one or two shipments have been mustered at a place called the "Beggar's Village." Fifty cash a day are allowed for each man who comes to the muster, a sum sufficient to provide him with rice and fish, and he is lodged at night in some ruinous tenement rented by the crimp for a trifle. The examination, as respects apparent capacity for labour and bodily health, is

conducted with strictness, and one-third of those brought forward are often rejected. The merchant is usually assisted by the surgeon of the vessel, if there is one. The crimp lends cash to the coolies who have been accepted, for the purpose of gambling and buying cakes, or disburses a dollar or two to quiet his friends, which he is afterwards repaid with an usurious interest, when the contracts are signed and the advances made to the coolies on board the vessel as she is on the point of starting. Their treatment on shore is therefore good enough upon the whole.

An idea of the accommodation on board may be gathered from the tonnage statements in the commencement of this note. In the case of the "Duke of Argyll," the allotment of space was nine superficial feet, or about one ton and a-half to each man; whereas the English rule is two tons, with ten superficial feet, and the American, fourteen feet per passenger. The emigration to Sydney gives a deficiency of 497 tons at the same scale for the conveyance of 2,666 emigrants. The capacity of a ship for passengers is, however, determinable by other principles than those of tonnage or superficies, and where the "'tween decks" has been large and roomy, more have been safely put on board than the legal number. I think the excess has not been so great as might have been expected in an unregulated trade. The supply of provisions on board is always ample. Rice, pease, salt-fish, or cured beef, 2½lbs. per day, with sweet potatoes, salted greens, radishes, and olives; hog's-lard, vinegar, and oil as extras. To what extent these latter articles are supplied, or if to all the ships, is not known. The beef has latterly been cured in Amoy, but owing to an imperfect knowledge of the process on the part of the comprador, was, I fear, of doubtful quality. No mention is made of lime juice, or any substitute. The allowance of water in the "Duke of Argyll" was five imperial pints per man, two pints more than the allowance of vessels carrying English emigrants. It is a point of most essential importance that an ample supply of substantial healthy food and water for four weeks longer than the average voyage to the West Indies should be laid in, as any change of diet or water is likely to be attended with sickness. One vessel, obliged to water on her way to Sydney, lost seventy men in a few days, and any great mortality has been usually attributable to this cause.

Most of the vessels carry a surgeon, but several bound to Sydney have been without one, and sailed with native practitioners. It should be made imperative that a regularly educated medical man proceed in every English vessel. The "British Sovereign" recently left for Havana without a surgeon, having 320 souls on board. A sufficient supply of medicines should be also enforced. In this respect there have been deficiencies, as drugs have not hitherto been procurable at Amoy.

The berths are made to contain from four to six coolies; two lines of battens are usually run up along the whole length of the lower deck outside the openings into the hold; from these intersecting battens run to the sides of the ship, dividing the deck into separate spaces. In the "Duke of Argyll" there was a rough second tier, and I suppose this is still done when the ship is high between decks. The coolies usually provide themselves with bamboo pillows, but blankets are not allowed. There is no separate space allotted to the sick.

The Cuba contracts are believed to contain stipulations of the following nature:—The parties are bound to work in shops, sheds, or in the fields, as may be convenient, for 3 dollars per month. The allowance of food is eight ounces of salt beef, and one and a-half pounds of plantains, beans, or other alimentary food. Medical assistance is guaranteed in infirmaries without loss of pay for fifteen days, after which the pay stops, but the patient continues in the infirmary till the termination of the contract without expense; two suits of clothes, a woollen jacket, and blanket are allowed yearly; the contract is to last for eight years from arrival in Cuba, after which the emigrant is to be free to labour for himself; the money advanced, and the cost of two suits of clothes supplied before embarkation, amounting perhaps to 15 dollars, are to be repaid by the deduction of 1 dollar for as many months from the wages; the contracts are in Spanish and Chinese, and contain no stipulation for the return of the labourer to China.

The Demerara contract is believed to be similar to the Cuban in all important particulars; is for the same term of years, guarantees the same rate of wages, and contains no stipulation of return. The terms of two large

contracts of opposed interests must necessarily be nearly equal. But an Englishman will, of course, believe that the security for due observance of stipulations is greater in an English free than in a foreign slave colony.

The Sydney contracts were for five years; wages 2·50 dollars for men, 1·50 for boys; weekly provision, ten pounds of meat, ten pounds of wheat, quarter of a pound of tea, one pound of sugar, or such other provisions as may be mutually agreed on; the deduction from the monthly wages for the repayment of the advance at Amoy to be fifty cents.

The Chinese are on the whole perfectly acquainted with the contents of the contract. In the case of the "Robert Bowne," these documents were found carefully laid up, by the "Lily," in the hut erected for the coolies by the islanders of the Mad-ji-co-si-mah group. Instances of individual ignorance from laziness or indifference on the part of the emigrant no doubt occur, and it should be made imperative that every one should have its nature fully explained before signature.

The reputation of the Chinese coolie brokers is very low; no really respectable Chinese would engage in a trade the object of which is vulgarly regarded as the selling of men to an English merchant. It is said of an emigrant, "he has sold himself to such an one." Such is the language used in petitions presented by relatives to the English Consul. The crimps practise, doubtless, all the arts of recruiting; they demand an usurious interest for the money they lend; they are well paid, for besides receiving fifty cash daily for each man mustered, their guerdon on each coolie ultimated shipped is one dollar; they do not personally ill-treat the emigrants. The brokers and their respective gangs are given to quarrels, and hard knocks are occasionally interchanged. The localities for the examinations of the coolies have been already indicated; more precaution as to exposure is desirable; I believe, however, this will be remedied in future, having been chiefly attributable to want of room; recent improvements at the port will enable the merchant to select more suitable spots for his purpose.

There has not been any approach to kidnapping.

Several suggestions naturally arise from the preceding details; the first and most important is, that a strict system of regulation and supervision over emigration to British colonies, and over British vessels employed in the conveyance of emigrants to foreign colonies, should be established, and an officer appointed to measure and determine, according to definite rules, the number of men each English vessel is to be permitted to carry; to inspect the provisions, and ascertain the quantity of water, with power to direct the increase or withdrawal of either, if insufficient or bad; to command the measures he may deem necessary for ventilation; to see that proper supplies of lime juice are on board; to witness and explain the contracts; to decide summarily on any disputes referred to him between the brokers and the coolies; to look to the fittings up and berthings of the deck. His duties should include those of a health officer. He should be empowered, in the event of the breaking out of the small-pox, or any other virulent contagious disease in the crew, to prohibit the embarkation of coolies till a reasonable period has elapsed, and to order the fumigation of the ship, or the free use of chlorides to destroy infection. The salary of this officer would be no expense to Government, which would be fully reimbursed by the payment of one dollar as a fee for the official seal which parties are most anxious should be attached to each contract.

Emigrant ships, unless they bring cargo, pay no tonnage duties as such; they earn proportionally better freights than other vessels, and could well afford a small duty, say twenty-five cents per ton. This would include British vessels proceeding to foreign colonies, while the Spanish or other Vice-Consul here would, of course, continue, as at present, to receive his fee of one dollar for the authentication of each contract. Supposing the tonnage to Havana conveying emigrants to be annually 4,000 tons, 1,000 dollars in fees would be receivable; the same amount carrying 2,000 emigrants to Demerara would yield 3,000 dollars,—in all 4,000 dollars; a sum amply sufficient to cover the salaries and contingencies of superintendence.

This last topic naturally leads to a consideration of the different estimates which have been made of the annual number of labourers that might be induced to emigrate. The late Mr. Consul Layton, who was of a very inquiring turn of mind, and paid much attention to this subject, estimated it at 10,000. A mer-

chant of great experience estimated it at 12,000 per annum, or 1,000 per month. It appears to me that neither of these calculations are exaggerated, but that allowance is not made in them for the want of necessary facilities under which the emigration has been hitherto conducted, and the occasional obstacles thrown in the way by the followers of the Chinese mandarins. The shipment of such considerable numbers would require spacious roomy barracks, where the coolies could be kept well in hand.

Even under the present disadvantages there would be no difficulty in shipping, for an indefinite series of years, 6,000 labourers of approved physical appearance,—an estimate very low, and much within the limits assigned by those practically engaged in the trade.

(Signed) CHARLES A. WINCHESTER.

British Consulate, Amoy, August 26, 1852.

*P.S.—Since the above was written, numerous vessels have arrived, either engaged for or seeking employment in the coolie trade. The writer has had particular conversation with several shipmasters who have been engaged in bringing back the Hindu coolies from Demerara. In one vessel,—the "Glentanner,"—the number of deaths was frightful, only exceeded by the mortality of the "Lady Montague" itself. The disease was stated by the captain to be scurvy. There was plenty of lime juice on board, carried as a medical comfort; but it was never served out, as the master did not feel himself authorized to do so without an order from the medical man; no order was ever given. Such a tale, resting on any other authority than the master of a ship, would have appeared too improbable for belief. It only proves the necessity of allowing no latitude of action where the comforts of Asiatic emigrants are concerned, to the consciences of European officers.

A few words may be said here on the propriety of interfering to regulate an emigration forbidden by the laws of a quasi friendly country. The circumstances of this case are altogether exceptional, and render it the duty of our Government, either to prohibit the engagement of British vessels, or to enforce the principles of humanity which it has applied for the benefit of its own subjects in the Passengers Act. Because the officers of the Chinese Government dare not perform their duty, is a Christian flag relieved from the responsibility by which all who sail under it are entitled to humane treatment? Slight political inconvenience may perhaps be the result, inasmuch as we could not then pretend to ignore the matter altogether; but any very complicated or serious difficulty is not to be apprehended.

The opium trade, and the recent abandonment by the English Consular authorities of all superintendence over the collection of the tariff customs, have fully accustomed the Chinese mandarins to the existence of silence on regulations which they are unable or unwilling to enforce; and when we reflect, that at a certain definite time our own duty to the Chinese emigrant commences,—namely, the moment he embarks,—it is surely to be regretted that the character of the English nation should be allowed to suffer under the imputations which the awful mortality on board some vessels has cast upon it. It appears that the best way of effecting these objects would be an extension, by Act of Parliament, of the power allowed the Governors of colonies by the Passengers Act to the Superintendent of Trade quoad the ports open to foreign trade, or the dominions of the Emperor of China generally. A local ordinance valid within 100 miles of the Chinese coast would only grant protection to the emigrant for a minute portion of his stay under our flag, and provide for the punishment of the offender nowhere else except in China. By the Passengers Act he would be liable to the superintendence of the English Consul, if bound to a foreign colony;—in an English colony he would be amenable to the usual colonial courts for infringement of the law.

Inclosure 4 in No. 8.

Consul Alcock to Dr. Bowring.

Sir, *Shanghae, September* 1, 1852.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following answers to the set of questions inclosed in your despatch of the 5th instant, on the subject of emigration from China, together with such suggestions as have occurred to me in connexion with the important objects contemplated by the Earl of Malmesbury.

1. The only emigration from Shanghae which has taken place since the opening of the port has been of a very partial kind. In 1849 some 200 coolies were shipped by the "Amazon," for California. The vessel "Regina" took some 20 or 30 to Australia last year, and more recently a few Chinese have taken passages for California on their own account, I believe, tempted by the accounts received of the golden harvest; many of these were servants in the employment of foreigners, and this has been the only instance of a strictly voluntary or spontaneous emigration.

2. Connived at and undisturbed emigration, even upon a large scale, would probably attract neither notice nor interference from the authorities, unless a question arose as to the maintenance of a large number of families left behind destitute. This, however, might be prevented by provision being made for the payment to them of a portion of the wages of the emigrants monthly.

3. Yes, fairly so. The summer at Shanghae is not very long, but quite tropical, the thermometer varying from 90° to 100° in the shade, and the people bear the heat well, though pretty constantly working in the fields. Of Asiatic origin, they seem constitutionally adapted to a warm climate, and their ordinary food consisting chiefly of rice, vegetables, and fruit, is the food of nearly all the inhabitants of tropical climes, and of course easy to be obtained in the West Indies. The labourers here are chiefly employed in the cultivation of rice, cotton, and wheat; those from the ports of Fokien and Quangtung would be more familiar with the culture of the sugar cane.

4. The field labourer in the villages receive 100 cash per diem, and find themselves; that is, two dollars per month, which at 5*s.* per dollar, would be 4*d.* per day. Their usual wages are 75 or 80 cents a month, with food, or three halfpence a day; that is five-eights less in money. Chair coolies or other outdoor workmen, when employed by foreigners, and finding themselves, get 5,000 copper cash per month, equal to 3·33 dollars, or 16*s.* 8*d.*; and carpenters and plasterers also get from 150 to 180 cash a day, say 6*d.* to 7*d.*, without food.

5. They are fairly industrious, and can get through a good day's work, not equal to European labourers in temperate climates, but much more than the latter could accomplish under a tropical sun; they do not, however, bear being kept very closely to it, or to be driven forward at a faster pace than is habitual to them. Being an agricultural people, field work finds more favour in their eyes than any other; but a Chinaman does not bear worrying, and would rather give up the best place in the world than be subjected to a continual fret. In their own country they require both patience and management in their employers, whether native or foreign, to be well looked after, and firmly but kindly dealt with. They have many good points. They are good-humoured upon the whole; patient and temperate as a class; yet often hasty in temper, and with strong feelings. If they do not like their work, or their employer, they leave their situation at once, however advantageous it may be in other respects. Living is cheap, and they never care therefore to serve in a place that does not suit them. If in circumstances where they cannot or dare not leave, and they are dissatisfied with either their work or their treatment, they are apt to become sulky and very impracticable. They are fond of a sort of gossiping relaxation; and will often leave off for a few minutes in the middle of their work, however well disposed to do it fairly, while they smoke and chatter. Their own people, who may be supposed to know by practical experience how they may best get a good day's work for their wages, do not attempt to prevent this, unless the licence is much abused, when a sense of justice among the workmen would not be wanting to give effect to the master's remonstrance or threat of applying a remedy.

The Chinese labourers are fond of holidays, and manage in their own country to make a good many. They spend much of their spare time in tea shops; and wherever they may be in any number, it would be essential, I conceive, to establish some, where they could resort, drink their national beverage, gossip away their leisure time, and get, if desired, their frugal meal of rice and vegetables. They have the great advantage of being a very temperate race, and upon the whole are very easily contented, if well and discreetly treated, with some regard to their national habits and customs.

6. Yes, if due care were taken by competent persons on the spot to make the selection. Able-bodied workmen of the agricultural class might be readily obtained, and in considerable numbers, not of course of the class of peasant proprietors (very numerous here), nor of those who found no difficulty in making a living, who would see little inducement in hard work abroad, even with higher wages than they could obtain at home among their own people. The fear is, that as they are very superior to the negro race, they would deteriorate by contact with these, if a large body of men without wives were to emigrate to the West Indies.

7. Not in the first instance, nor is it the usual course with Chinese emigrants. Their matrimonial ties are very slender. Those who go to the Straits and adjoining islands for the most part never return, but get wives where they settle and remain. The great difficulty in the way of a permanent and improving emigration to the West Indies is not so much the great distance, though that must be taken into account, but the impossibility of their finding fit wives in those islands. If they either marry or cohabit with the inferior race of negroes, deterioration would follow; but even this option would scarcely exist, for the repugnance of Chinese to a negro is something unconquerable. "Hih Quei tsze"—"a black devil," is the worst form of opprobrious abuse in a Chinaman's mouth, and there would be no little prejudice to be overcome in reconciling them to the prospect of living among, and working with, a black race. By proper means the difficulty of getting the wives and families of the Chinese emigrants to follow the levies might probably be overcome. Upon the success of such measures, however, would depend, in no small degree, the issue of any attempt to promote emigration hence upon a large scale, and with a view to the permanent improvement of the labour market in the West Indies.

If the first Chinese emigrants were well treated and made contented, and some fair inducement were held out to them to settle permanently, they would no doubt engage their families to follow them. It would probably be necessary to offer facilities to two or three of the emigrants sent in the first and second ships to return after a few months' sojourn, in order that they might remove all doubt or suspicion from the minds of the women whose husbands were absent, and report favourably of the locality and treatment they had received.

8. From Amoy, I understand, coolies have been shipped for the West Indies at 10*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* a head, to be found in wood and water only; but it is difficult to estimate the expense by Cape Horn, as the voyage would be of doubtful length, and captains would charge more for the venture. It is a long way through the Pacific, and ships would find such variable winds, that the length of the voyage would be difficult to calculate. By the Cape of Good Hope, it would be about 75 dollars per head.

9. A contract of some kind would be necessary. The men themselves would require a pledge for the amount of wages, and the means, within a stated time, of returning. These contracts should be made out both in Chinese and English. A small deduction from their monthly wages, specified in the contract, might provide the funds for their return, and perhaps tend to give them greater confidence. The parties to whom they were to be assigned might be left blank. Some well-known firm here, or the Consular authority, would be required to guarantee the terms to the men, otherwise few would be found willing to embark. And the option of assigning a portion of their wages, to be paid by such agent here to the families, would in many instances be desired.

10. No good or accurate account, based upon experience, of a vessel's chance for wind between here and Cape Horn can be obtained, as it is almost an unknown route in this monsoon, when they must first run to the north and west. In the north-east monsoon ships would probably go by that route, if desired, and charge no more. By the Cape of Good Hope it would be nearly as follows:—The clipper ships from November to March, 80 days; from April to

October, 100. The good sailing vessels from November to March, 100 to 110; from April to October, 120 to 130 days; which is probably a very full allowance of time.

11. Little remains to be said on the question of emigration generally to the West Indies. All the important points will be found embraced in the answers to the preceding queries. The final success of any scheme of emigration on a large scale to the West Indies will mainly depend upon the following conditions:—

1st. The confidence the Chinese can repose on the shipping agent, or party entering into contracts with them here, and the facilities he may be authorized to guarantee for the payment of assigned portions of wages to the families, for the return of the emigrants within a given time,—say three years,—and for the transport of their wives and families, if, after the arrival of their husbands, the latter should desire to have them.

2nd. The treatment they receive at the place of their destination. Without some knowledge of the habits of thought and action, the character, and customs of the Chinese, as a people, on the part of some one having a voice in the arrangements for their final location in the West Indies, it will be very difficult to prevent misunderstandings and dissatisfaction on both sides; the consequence of which will certainly be the failure of the scheme. On the other hand, with kind and judicious management, there is probably no race of people more orderly, tractable, and easily satisfied than the Chinese of these northern provinces. They are little prone to attach themselves to foreigners, and yet they will serve well, and often more faithfully than Europeans, who may be supposed susceptible of personal regard for their masters; but, on the other hand, they require a great deal more of tact, temper, and discretion in their management, or good service is not to be got out of them.

Hence I should deem it essential, among other arrangements, that wherever they are located in any numbers, they should be allowed to open one or more tea shops, and all reasonable facilities afforded them to spend some of their leisure time there, as a place of resort for Chinese. And it would also seem very essential, if Her Majesty's Government desired to contribute effectively to the promotion of a large and systematic emigration, that some agent on their behalf should be entrusted with the control and superintendence of the arrangements made at the Chinese port, for the selection of the men, the conditions of their contracts, and the providing of good ships, accommodation, and provisions. Several ships freighted with coolies have been lost, by the latter rising upon the officers and crew, and, in some instances at least, there has been good reason to believe the calamity had been provoked by want of judgment in the management of the passengers, and of proper care in providing for their accommodation and good treatment. The Chinese will often bear a great deal for a time, and unrepiningly; but when roused at last to impatience or resistance, they know no restraint, and have no value for human life. In other cases again, there has been great mortality among the coolies, from bad provisions and want of room. These are things, therefore, that should be looked to by some agent responsible to the Government, and whose sole duty it should be to secure the success of any large scheme of emigration. Experience has shown that this duty cannot be left to the Commission agents and mercantile houses in China, who have other and larger interests to occupy their time and attention, interests, too, not always to be reconciled with the requirements of such an emigration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RUTHERFORD ALCOCK.

No. 9.

Dr. Bowring to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(*Received December* 20.)

My Lord, *Hong Kong, October* 1, 1852.

I HAVE now the honour to inclose Mr. Officiating-Consul Backhouse's answers to the questions respecting coolie emigration, conveyed to me by your Lordship's despatch dated 12th June last. Mr. Backhouse's despatch conveys

also a memorandum from Mr. Acting-Interpreter Pedder on the same subject, which I likewise forward.

The report which I sent to your Lordship last mail from Dr. Charles Winchester (in my despatch dated 25th September) will, however, supply many of the deficiencies of Mr. Backhouse's communication respecting coolies from Amoy. I have also to inclose Mr. Vice-Consul Hague's replies, as regards Ningpo, to the same list of queries. The return to the district of Amoy of a great number of coolies who have escaped from the "Robert Bowne" and other vessels, and who have reported to their countrymen the ill-usage and cruelties to which they and their companions were subjected, will, I have no doubt, greatly augment the difficulties of obtaining a supply of labourers, and not less deteriorate the quality of those who will be now disposed to leave China.

I have been somewhat surprised by an application from the house of Turner and Co., stating that their correspondents in London have contracted with Her Majesty's Government for the supply of 1000 coolies for Trinidad, to be shipped from Amoy before the end of the present year. Messrs. Turner and Co. say they are unable to supply them from Amoy, where there are more contracts for coolies for the Island of Cuba alone than can be furnished for sixteen months to come, and inquire whether in case of their shipping these coolies from Whampoa, Macao, or Cumsingmoon, I will consent to furnish "a small guard to sail with any ships they may load." The coolies which would be shipped at the places mentioned, would be probably the veriest dregs of the Canton population, and would very probably require a guard to preserve subordination; but as I have no knowledge whatever of any contract for coolies to which Her Majesty's Government has been a party, and should exceedingly deprecate the shipment to any British colonies of that class of men who at the present moment would be possibly the only candidates for emigration from this neighbourhood, I have given no sort of encouragement to the application of Messrs. Turner and Co., who inform me they expect "to have considerable orders for shipment of agricultural labourers to all the West Indian Islands, and should be glad if some plan could be arranged to insure the safety of ships and their crews from any outbreak." I venture to assure your Lordship that if fitting agricultural labourers can be now properly selected (which I doubt), the protection required will not be against their outbreak, but against the cupidity and ill-usage of those who are concerned in their shipment and conveyance to the places of their destination. But the misconduct of many of the captains and adventurers engaged in the coolie trade, and the changed feelings of the Chinese population on the subject of hired emigration generally, have altogether altered the position of things in this country. The pressure of want, such as would be created by famine and inundations, may again produce a supply of necessitous emigrants; but mismanagement and rascality in many shapes, both in China and out of it, have produced and are producing their natural effects upon the minds even of the Chinese peasantry, who are much bound together by clanship, and who communicate very freely on all that concerns the community.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 9.

Acting-Consul Backhouse's Answers to Queries.

1. *Q.* HAS any emigration taken place within the last few years from the port of Amoy? If so, to what extent?—*A.* In 1847, 632 coolies went to Cuba; in 1848, 120 to Sydney; 1849, 280 to Sydney; 1850, 422 to Sydney; 1851, 1,438 to Sydney, and 200 to Honoluhu; and in 1852, 478 to Sydney, 101 to Honoluhu, 404 to Peru, 465 to Demerara, and 300 to Cuba; making a total of 4,840 coolies.

2. *Q.* Is the emigration from Amoy sanctioned or connived at by the local authorities? Are any obstacles thrown in the way of intending emigrants?—*A.* Tacitly sanctioned.

3. *Q.* Are the inhabitants of the districts adjoining to Amoy, in your opinion,

well fitted for labour in a tropical climate like that of the West Indies?—*A.* Yes.

4. *Q.* What is the average rate of pay per diem for agricultural labour in and near Amoy?—*A.* For a permanent engagement, from 25 to 45 cash per diem, with food. For job work, 75 to 100 cash per diem, without food.

5. *Q.* What is the general character of the people of Amoy as regards industry and capacity of labour?—*A.* Good.

6. *Q.* In the event of an emigration taking place on a large scale, is it likely that men of respectable character and industrious habits would join it, or only the refuse of the population?—*A.* None but the destitute will go to an unknown country; but a deserving man in such circumstances will emigrate as freely as a worthless character.

7. *Q.* In the same event, is it likely that emigrants would take with them their families, and settle altogether out of China, or would they go alone, and with a view of returning?—*A.* Under any circumstances Chinamen would not be likely to remove their families from China.

8. *Q.* What would be the expense, at present rates, of shipping male adult emigrants for the West Indies *viâ* Cape Horn, per man?—*A.* 17*l.* per man; vessels always go round the Cape of Good Hope.

9. *Q.* Would emigrants going out enter into contracts pledging themselves to work at certain rates for the same parties; or, in your judgment, would it be more desirable to leave them wholly free and unfettered?—*A.* Coolies always enter into contracts previous to starting. I consider it would be inexpedient for a different course to be pursued.

10. *Q.* What would be the average time required for a passage from Amoy to the West Indies?—*A.* About 4½ months.

11. *Q.* State generally any facts bearing on the question of Chinese emigration to the West Indies which may occur to you as important, and which are not mentioned in the preceding queries.—*A.* No observations to make.

(Signed) J. BACKHOUSE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 9.

Memorandum by Acting-Interpreter Pedder.

THE local authorities apparently take no official notice of the emigration of coolies. They are of course cognizant of all that goes on, and on two or three occasions I have known them remark, in the course of desultory conversation, that such or such a vessel had taken away a better or worse lot of men than usual; but beyond such remarks I have not known them say anything in relation to the subject.

The rate of pay per diem earned by agricultural labourers varies so much according to circumstances, that it is hard to say what might be considered the average. Where people are engaged for a permanency (say a year), the pay given, with food, might be anything from 25 to 45 cash per diem; but where men are employed by the day, or by the job, the rate of remuneration is even more various, as it is much influenced by the probable length of the engagement, the nature of the job, the season of the year, &c. Probably the most common pay, without food, is between 75 and 100 cash per diem. From 37 to 30 cash are equivalent to 1*d.* sterling.

The food of agricultural labourers, and of the poorer classes generally in and about Amoy, is of the most inferior kind; sweet potatoes, a sort of turnip, and indeed roots of all kinds, form, with various descriptions of greens, the bulk of their food. Of the greens, a vast proportion seems hardly deserving of being considered food for human beings. Rice is a luxury.

None but the destitute will leave for a long time to come; and it may fairly be considered that the bulk of the people in such circumstances are neither the most respectable nor industrious of the community. But as even good character and industrious habits are not certain of securing a living in hard times, it is possible that a proportion of deserving men may occasionally be found amongst those compelled to emigrate.

These latter remarks would not apply to people emigrating to the Straits Settlements or to Manilla; but the West Indies is to Chinamen a *terra incognita.*

British Consulate, Amoy, September 3, 1852.

(Signed) W. H. PEDDER,
Junior Assistant and Acting Interpreter.

Inclosure 3 in No. 9.

Vice-Consul Hague to Dr. Bowring.

Sir, *Ningpo, September* 14, 1852.

REFERRING to your Excellency's despatch of the 5th of August, transmitting a paper of questions on the subject of emigration from China, and requesting I would furnish replies to the same, together with any suggestions which might occur to me, I have now the honour to reply to the questions seriatim.

1. *Q.* Has any emigration taken place within the last few years from the port of Ningpo? if so, to what extent?—*A.* No emigration has taken place from Ningpo to my knowledge since the opening of this port to foreign trade in 1844.

2. *Q.* Is the emigration from Ningpo sanctioned or connived at by the local authorities? Are any obstacles thrown in the way of intending emigrants?—*A.* No emigration having taken place, experience has not shown whether the authorities would either sanction or connive at it: but from the apathy Chinese officials generally exhibit to all matters which do not cause them trouble, I do not think they would notice in any way emigration, particularly if carried on in foreign vessels.

3. *Q.* Are the inhabitants of the districts adjoining to Ningpo, in your opinion, well fitted for labour in a tropical climate like that of the West Indies?—*A.* I should give it as my opinion, from the similarity of the climates one-half of the year, that natives of this district are as well suited as any other Chinese from the north of China to bear the climate of the West Indies, as from my own observation the mortality in the winter months is about the same as what it is in the summer months.

4. *Q.* What is the average rate of pay per diem for agricultural labourers in and near Ningpo?—*A.* About two dollars a month, besides which an agricultural labourer is given his food by his employer, which costs about one dollar more; in many instances, also, agricultural labourers live in the house with their employer, but three dollars a month, or five pence per diem, is as much as an agricultural labourer receives in this neighbourhood.

5. *Q.* What is the general character of the people of Ningpo as regards industry and capacity of labour?—*A.* The inhabitants of Ningpo, as far as the labouring class is concerned, are a very industrious, civil, well-disposed, and painstaking people, and being in general very robust, they would, I am sure, make good labourers in any part of the world.

6. *Q.* In the event of an emigration taking place on a large scale, is it likely that men of respectable character and industrious habits would join it, or only the refuse of the population?—*A.* The Ningpo people to all appearances are not at all disposed to emigrate, as they seem attached to their native place, and are content with a very little; and even if inducement was held out to them to emigrate, I am of opinion it would be only the very poorest and lowest who would take advantage of it, but it is of course difficult to answer this question until an attempt should actually be made by some enterprising person.

7. *Q.* In the same event, is it likely that emigrants would take with them their families and settle altogether out of China, or would they go alone and with a view of returning?—*A.* Even if emigration did take place from Ningpo, I do not suppose the emigrants would take their families with them, or that the emigrants would, except in isolated cases, settle altogether out of China. I am of opinion if the people of this district did emigrate at all, it would be alone, and with the intention of returning in a few years to their families.

8. *Q.* What would be the expense, at present rates, of shipping male adult

emigrants to the West Indies, *viâ* Cape Horn, per man?—*A.* There not having been any emigration, I am unable to reply to this question.

9. *Q.* Would emigrants going out enter into contracts pledging themselves to work at certain rates for the same parties; or, in your judgment, would it be more desirable to leave them wholly free or unfettered?—*A.* My reply to this question must be again supposititious. I should say, that if emigration did take place from Ningpo, at its commencement at all events the emigrants would enter into contracts to work for certain individuals at certain rates: the latter part of the query would, I should say, depend entirely upon circumstances, as, of course, when emigration had commenced, future contracts and emigration would be based upon the advices the friends here received from those who had emigrated.

10. *Q.* What would be the average time required for a passage from Ningpo to the West Indies?—*A.* This would depend altogether upon the time of year the vessels left Ningpo.

11. *Q.* State generally any facts bearing on the question of Chinese emigration to the West Indies which may occur to you as important, and which are not mentioned in the preceding questions.—*A.* I have thus replied to each query as far as I am able; but with the limited information I possess on this subject, and without a personal knowledge of the West India Islands, I feel great diffidence in presenting any suggestions of my own to your Excellency; wishing, however, your Excellency should have as correct information on this head as it is possible, I may state it to be my decided opinion, viewing solely the very great reluctance with which natives of this district leave their homes, that, unless some extraordinary inducements should be offered, I do not suppose emigration, to any extent worth mentioning, will ever take place from this port.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. HAGUE.

No. 10.

Dr. Bowring to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(*Received December* 20.)

My Lord, *Hong Kong, October* 1, 1852.

THE knowledge which Mr. Interpreter Parkes possesses of the Chinese people is very considerable, and as I deemed that knowledge likely to be useful in reference to the question of coolie emigration, I requested him to state his opinions on the subject, and I have now the honour to inclose to your Lordship his report, which is valuable and interesting in many respects.

In order to turn the migratory disposition of the Chinese labourer to the best account, the closest attention should be paid to his habits of thought and feeling, his domestic and social usages; and the amount of our success and of our security will depend upon the adaptation of our arrangements to Chinese customs and education.

I have lately had the advantage of much personal intercourse with the Chinese headman who is one of the principal instruments by which the Chinese settlers in Java are governed. He has amassed a large fortune during a residence of more than thirty years in that colony, and has lately returned to China with a view, he tells me, of marrying again, and continuing his race (his former wife being dead). He comes from the neighbourhood of Amoy, where his family is still located. He said he had made up his mind to a squeeze by the Mandarins to the extent of two lacs of dollars (40,000*l.* sterling), by which your Lordship will judge of his opulence. I recommended him to abandon his intention of hiring steamers and going ostentatiously either to Canton or Amoy, and he has returned from Canton (not having been squeezed), thanking me for my counsels, and has now quietly proceeded to Amoy.

His name is Beh Ingtjoe, and he bears in the official almanack of the Netherland Indies the title of the Samarang Titular Major of the Chinese. He inhabits Samarang, in which place he tells me there are 10.000 Chinese settlers. Immediately under him is an officer bearing the rank of Captain of the Chinese, named San Tjong-wai, and there are five Chinese lieutenants subordinate to the major and the captain. The whole of these officers, with the addition of a Chinese Secretary, and an Adjunct Secretary, form a sort of Municipal Board to

which magisterial and police authority is entrusted, and who are thus made responsible for the conduct of the Chinese settlers, whom they govern as far as possible according to the laws and usages of China. In all the towns or districts of Java in which there are any considerable number of Chinese settlers, as for example in Batavia, Buitenzorg, Cheribon, Tagal, Pehalongan, Japara, Rembong, Surabaya, &c., a similar body is appointed consisting of a greater or less number of Chinese officers and of higher or lower grades according to the extent of their duties, and to these bodies or boards the Government looks for the administration of justice and the preservation of the public peace among the Chinamen.

The frequent and easy intercourse between China and the Indian Archipelago no doubt gives to the latter great facilities for obtaining the best class of Chinese settlers, and for supplying the most appropriate instruments for their proper guidance and governance. Family associations are not broken by the emigration. Parents, wives, children, and relatives still attach the emigrant to his native soil, the hope of a return to which is invariably present to his mind, and habitually impelling his exertions.

The main difficulty as regards the permanent location of respectable Chinese in regions so remote as the West Indies, is the impracticability of inducing their wives or any of the female branches of their family to accompany them. So intensely strong and so universal is the sentiment that no female with any sense of propriety or modesty could consent to quit her native home, that it would be impossible to induce any but women of low and lost character to emigrate. A few females have indeed left China both for England and the United States, but they have been generally slaves purchased by adventurers in the brothels of Canton or Amoy, or furnished by the professional procuresses of those places, and have been clandestinely conveyed on board the foreign ships.

The less respectable portion of the Chinese emigrants in the Indian Archipelago no doubt cohabit and sometimes intermarry with native Malay women, but such connections would scarcely be avowed by Chinamen who wished to preserve the higher degrees of respectability.

It is impossible to overestimate the extent to which the family relations influence the whole organization of Chinese society. They are the cement of the entire social and political edifice, and their ramifications are carried out into wide fields of detail.

Two invaluable elements for the good government of the Chinese will be invariably found among them—the habit of association, and respect for authority; but these associations will be invariably connected with their national habits, and the only authority they will really respect must also have its foundation in their system of ethics and education, which invariably teaches reverence for old age and for the parental relations: with which will be always linked great respect for literary acquirement and knowledge of their classical books. I have myself witnessed examples where a turbulent mob, wholly regardless of the presence of armed military Mandarins and their accompanying soldiers, have listened to and dispersed at the suggestions of a solitary literary Mandarin, appearing only with his fan, and quoting to them some aphorisms from the books of their sages. A race more docile under proper discipline, and more likely to become unmanageable if misunderstood and misgoverned, than the Chinese, is certainly nowhere to be found. Amalgamation with the races among whom they fix themselves, if ever to be accomplished, must be the work of ages; for, mean and poor though he be, it will not be easy to eradicate from the mind of a Chinaman his exalted notions of the greatness of his country, and the superiority of his country's learning, literature, and institutions, to those of any portion of "the outer world." I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

Inclosure in No. 10.

General Remarks on Chinese Emigration.

EMIGRATION from this Province and the adjoining one of Fuhkien, dates from a very early period, and it is these two provinces alone that have sent forth the myriads which have reclaimed the Islands of Formosa and

Haenan; introduced industry and various of the most useful arts into the countries of Cochin China, Camboja, and Siam; settled many of the islands of the Indian Archipelago; and contributed more than any other race to the rise and prosperity of the European settlements in Java, the Philippines, and the Malayan Peninsula.

Various circumstances, the most obvious of which are the redundant population and the poverty of the districts from whence this emigration has chiefly proceeded, have contributed to this result. But as several provinces of China are more densely peopled than either Kwangtung or Fuhkien (portions of which remain uncleared at the present day), and yet find means to support their population, it is evident that this tide of emigration is partly attributable to other causes than those quoted. It is to be accounted for by the different character of the Southern Chinese to that of their countrymen of the Centre and North. The restless and refractory disposition inherited by the former, and so condemned by the Chinese of the other provinces, is coupled with a spirit of enterprise which the latter do not possess; and hence their eagerness to avail themselves of the field for speculation and remunerative labour, which the luxuriant but thinly peopled countries of the Archipelago afford them.

The districts, or rather departments, which have furnished the largest amount of emigration, are those of Chaouchow and Keaying, in Kwangtung, and Changchow and Tseuenchow, in Fuhkëen. Their relative positions are shown in the accompanying outline, and a few remarks on the several characteristics of their population may serve to illustrate the subject.

1. Chaouchow, or, in the local dialect, Tïé-chin, has supplied more emigrants than any of the other departments named. The "Tie-chin men" are known to preponderate in the Straits, and in Formosa they equal in number the Fuhkienese. Owing to the clan strifes which run high among them, they form under a weak Government a combative and unruly class; but it is these very qualities which induce the Chinese Government to accord them the preference as volunteers to serve against the insurgents in these provinces. At the same time, however, they are excellent agriculturists, and their native talent as growers of sugar and indigo, which are largely produced in Chaouchow, particularly adapts them for plantation labour, the occupation they generally prefer to follow.

2. Keayingchow is a very poor department, with a dense agricultural population, parties of which are to be met with all over the province, and are known here by the name of Kihkhas or Akhas. They leave their own homes in search of employment, and are engaged by the month or year as labourers, or for a longer period as cultivators, on the owner's account, of small farms, for which service they are paid by a per-centage on the produce. Being noted as skilful clearers of jungle, their services are sure to be called into requisition whenever new ground has to be broken up, or a hill to be stript of its cover. They are accompanied by their wives and families, who work with them in the fields. The ordinary knowledge of mining which they have acquired in the mines of their native districts, stands them in good stead in those of the Straits; and they are also reputed to be skilful blacksmiths.

3. Changchow, or in the local dialect, Téongchin, resembles Chaouchow in its fertility and productions, and the people of the two departments are much alike in disposition. The men of Changchow are more subordinate, perhaps, than their neighbours of Chaouchow.

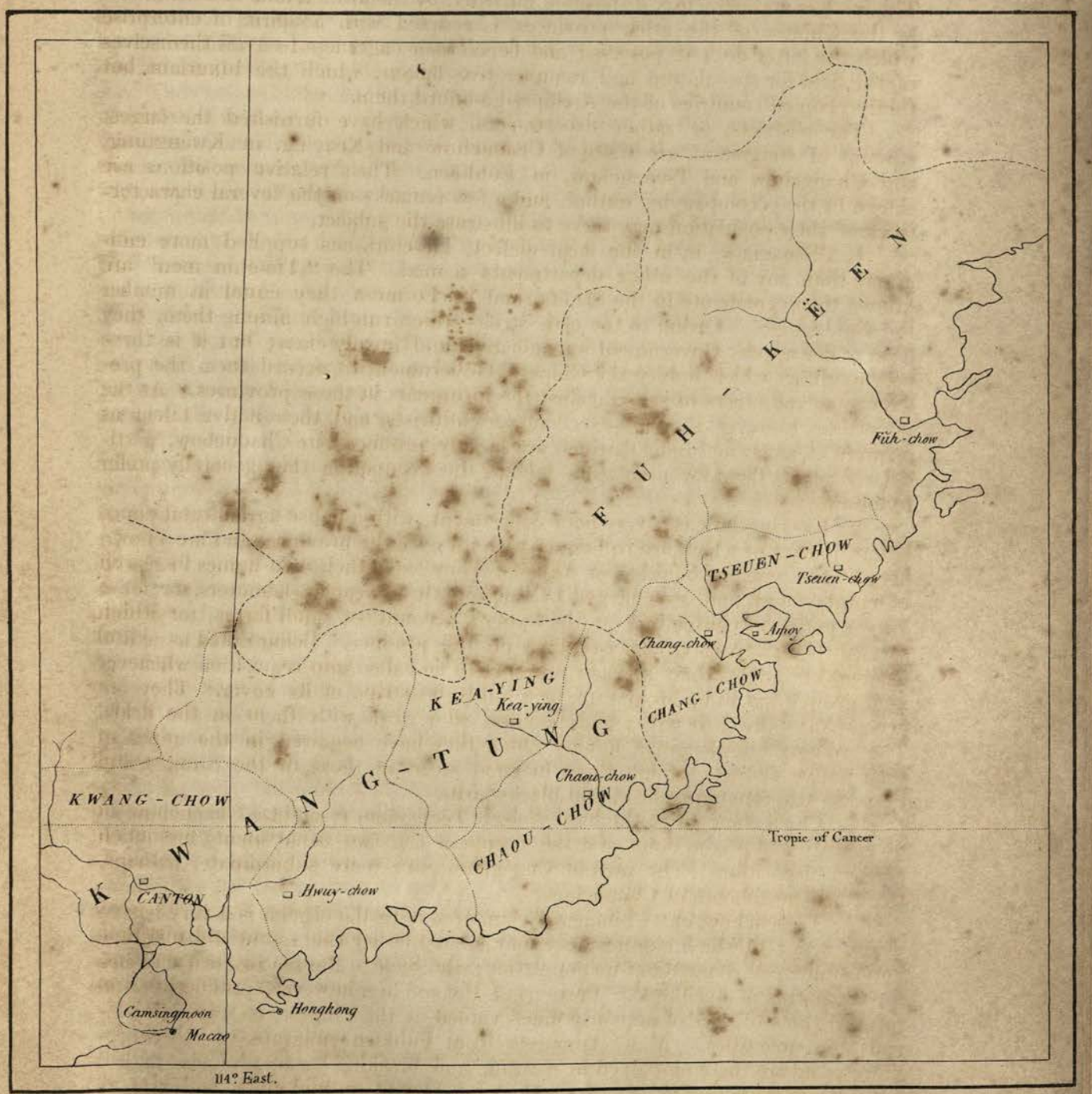
4. Tseuenchow, or "Chinchew," compared with the others, is a very barren department; to which circumstance may be attributed the essentially maritime and commercial character of its population, who look to the sea in great measure for the means of livelihood. Portions of the soil are, however, productive, and on such spots tobacco of a quality much valued by the Chinese, is reared in considerable quantities. Many labourers from Fuhkien emigrate to other provinces, and are there employed in clearing and breaking waste grounds, in hill cultivation, consisting chiefly of sweet potatoes and ground nuts, and also as manufacturers of crockery, and burners of lime and charcoal.

The absorbing aim of the Chinese emigrant is to better his condition. Of this object he never loses sight; and as he often continues to retain it, even after he has gained the competency for which he first commenced to strive, it frequently follows that he finally adopts as his permanent home the locality in which he has reaped his profits, if adapted, by climate and the presence of other of his countrymen, to his native habits and mode of life. Unlike the negro, who

OUTLINE

to accompany

Mr Parkes' Remarks on Chinese Emigration.



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works and denies himself for a time, and with a view only to gain the means of maintaining himself for a corresponding interval in ease and idleness, the labour of the Chinese knows no cessation, and his savings are formed into a stock, which he is always endeavouring to increase, but never to exhaust. Different again from the coolie of Hindostan, the Chinese is ignorant of the blighting effects of caste, and is as strongly bent on raising himself to a higher position as he is on acquiring wealth.

Instead, however, of their laboriousness being attended with servility, a feeling of independence enters strongly into the character of the lower orders of the Chinese, and is particularly noticeable in that of the agriculturists, who, from the estimation in which their calling is held at home, and the native system of tenure which divides the land into small holdings, are often led to consider themselves, in their own country, as on an equality with the proprietor of the soil they till, and in no way beholden to him for furnishing them employment, from which he derives equal or more benefit than themselves.

It is curious, that whilst in their own land they seldom quit the particular calling they adopt in early life, to which they are often born and bred for successive generations, the Chinese evince, when abroad, a remarkable talent, for Asiatics, of adapting themselves to any circumstances, readily quitting one trade or occupation, if they find it does not yield the remuneration they had expected, for another of a wholly different nature.

A strong commercial spirit rules all their proceedings, even of those who emigrate as agriculturists. From husbandmen they become planters, and often change this vocation for that of the merchant, or perhaps combine the two. This course can be traced in all their numerous settlements. Formosa, comparatively unknown to them three centuries ago, is now supposed to contain 3,000,000 of Chinese; and the amount of sugar, rice, hemp, and indigo which they export from thence is immense. Nearly an equal number is spread through Annam, Siam, and the Straits Settlements, where they are the principal cultivators, traders, miners, and artisans. The gambier plantations of Singapore—employment on which is attended with danger, on account of exposure to tigers—are entirely in the hands of Chinese, chiefly men of Tiéchin. In Java they are large indigo and coffee-planters; and the extensive sugar and tobacco cultivation of this island was at one time wholly in their hands, until European capital and machinery were brought to compete with their industry. Elsewhere, as in their own land, they are growers of cotton; and their delicacy of touch peculiarly fits them for the occupation of sorting the different qualities. In Manilla, Singapore, the ports of Java, &c., almost the whole of the foreign trade passes through the hands of Chinese, who, in the capacity of middlemen or brokers, conduct the transactions between the European merchants and the Indians, Bugis, Arabs, and Malays, changing the huckstering traffic of the latter into wholesale dealings, more suited to the means and time of the former.

The tropical regions of the East and West resemble each other, it is presumed, in their main features; in both there are lofty mountain-ranges, dense jungles, swampy savannahs, and a heated, humid atmosphere. Experience has shown that climates of this description agree with the Chinese, who, like the negroes, prefer to fix their habitations in low plains. But if the report be true, that the 800 coolies, shipped from Amoy to Cuba in 1847, have thriven, and realized the expectations formed of their labour, all doubt as to the suitableness of the climate is satisfactorily removed.

There can be little question, therefore, that much advantage would result from the introduction into the West Indies of a class of labourers who, in similar latitudes in the East, have proved themselves proficients in growing sugar, coffee, cotton, indigo, tobacco, pepper, rice, or dry grains, and many minor articles; and are also adepts at felling timber, clearing jungle, constructing bunds or dams, and opening irrigation.

The following remarks bear more particular reference to certain of the queries of the Right Honourable the Earl of Malmesbury.

Emigration from Canton, both in junks and foreign vessels, to the countries and settlements above named (not including California), has continued to increase during late years, although the average number of emigrants—3,000 to 4,000 annually—is much below that of the other departments. For deck-passages in foreign vessels, which they prefer to their own junks, they pay from 5 to 10 dollars, and always provide themselves with food. The greater part of

them proceed under contract to join planters or tradesmen; in the former case, their engagements are for five or six years, at a fixed rate of pay, with advances; or they receive, instead of regular pay, a share in the profits of the plantation. Terms differ considerably; and in many cases emigrants are relations or friends of the parties they go to join. They generally travel in small parties of twenty or thirty, sometimes in charge of a man of respectability, who has perhaps come from the south on purpose to engage them.

The late extraordinary emigration to California should be viewed as an exception to the general mode. It was in the hope of gathering gold, or participating in the high remuneration paid for labour of any kind, that caused the Chinese to flock there in such numbers, not as settlers, but merely as sojourners for a brief term of one or two years. Many of the poor emigrants started with the purpose of returning as soon as they had netted, exclusive of expenses, two or three hundred dollars; which, to the common field-labourer, whose united gains for twelve months do not amount to more than a tenth of that sum, is sufficient inducement for the venture. The dispatch of men of this class was largely undertaken by monied parties, quite as a matter of speculation. They paid the passage of the coolies, which rose as high as 50 dollars, and other expenses amounting to about 20 more, on the condition of receiving from the latter, upon their return, the sum of 200 dollars. Emigration to the gold-fields of Australia, if ever commenced in this quarter, might, probably, be conducted in a similar manner; but a wholly different system would have to be pursued in obtaining coolies for the West Indies. Passengers, rather than coolies, would be the better name for Chinese emigrating under these circumstances—the former term being reserved to denote labourers who are engaged to serve for a number of years at an uniform rate of pay. The only Chinese of this class hitherto contracted with at Canton or its vicinity by Europeans, have been shipped to Callao, or the coast of Peru. That they were composed of men of bad character, and of others in most indigent circumstances, is evident from the harshness of the terms on which they consented to engage, and the frequent tragedies which occurred on board the vessels transporting them.

China sanctions by law the emigration of its subjects for purposes of trade, or as hired labourers; but it is necessary that each person should be furnished with a pass on leaving his country, as without one he is liable to heavy punishment, graduated according to the extent of the intercourse he may have held with the foreigners whom he visited unauthorisedly. But the law in this respect, involving, as it does, even capital punishment, is far too severe for a weak Government to carry into execution; and thus a pass from the authorities is the last thing that a Chinese emigrant ever thinks of procuring; not because it would be refused him, but on account of the cost of the application, perhaps ten or twenty dollars, by which sum may be estimated the extent of the risk incurred by the omission.

The following case, recorded in the laws, shows that instances of their enforcement have occurred:

"Chin Eshe, a native of Fuhkien, went by stealth to Java, where he intrigued with foreigners, and was publicly employed by them as a *capitan*. He sought gain with insatiate greed, presumed to ally himself to a foreign woman, and purchased ground and men and women slaves. In the same stealthy way he returned again to his native country; and in accordance with the law regarding intercourse and trade with foreigners, which regulates the punishment of those offenders who, by the employment of fraud and artifice, occasion troubles on the confines of the State, he was banished as a slave to the army beyond the frontier. His wife (not the foreign one) was banished with him, and all his property, together with his men and women slaves, were confiscated to the Government.

"*Këenlung*, 15*th year* (1750)."

The law alluded to is to the following effect:

"All those who hold (unauthorised) intercourse with foreign nations, or stealthy communication with aboriginal tribes, who trade with them, borrow from them, or fraudulently deprive them of their property, and thereby endanger the peace of the frontier; or those who steal away to and reside with the aborigines, and incite or allure them to revolt, thereby occasioning trouble to the country, shall be punished, the principals, including those who shall have crossed the frontier into foreign territory, or have taken out of the country men, arms,

or sulphur, with death, the accessories with banishment to the army beyond the frontier."

Thus it will be seen that at one time the Chinese Government viewed commercial communication with the European settlements of the Straits as a crime analogous to treasonable correspondence with wild aboriginal tribes. Now, however, their policy is altogether changed, and emigration to any region, in all vessels, whether native or foreign (an old local law, infringed since its institution, forbids Chinese taking passage in the latter), has their complete connivance though not their expressed sanction. Still the mere existence in the statute book of the prohibitions referred to, is an additional inducement to men of property, who have rendered themselves amenable to them, to remain at a distance entirely removed from their reach.

Large landholders in China seldom cultivate their own estates, but lease and sublet them in such small portions, that the labour of a family with the assistance of their neighbours, often given and received, will sometimes suffice for the cultivation of an allotment. Labour, when required, is either hired by the year or merely as occasion renders necessary; in the former case the labourer receives three full meals of rice per day, and a ration of wine, or its value if he prefer it, which does not amount however to more than six cash, say a farthing English. At the close of the year he receives his pay in kind. This varies from five to ten "stone" (the last is considered a high rate) of grain or rice unhusked—a "stone" weighs about a pecul and a half, or not quite 200 lbs., and its usual value is a little under two dollars; thus, therefore, the average rate of pay per diem, exclusive of food, ranges from 1½*d.* to 3*d.* To this is added, in the shape of a bonus, a small share of potatoes or garden produce, deemed of second rate importance in Chinese husbandry. Labourers are allowed to cut grass or fuel, or do other work on their own account in leisure hours. Sometimes they are hired by the season, implying about three months' labour, near and at the time of the harvest, for which they are paid three or four "stone" of grain. At harvest time, or whenever important work is required, labourers can often get employment at the rate of 200 cash, or 8*d.* per diem, but without food, which is valued, in the case of agriculturists, at one-half of this amount.

The remarks already given on the fitness of Chinese generally for labour in a tropical climate, are as applicable to the people of Canton as to those of the other departments named. Whether the same numbers could be procured in this vicinity as easily as elsewhere, and at the same advantageous rates, may, however, admit of some question. Experience has hitherto proved that coolies of better character than those obtainable in the South, can be procured at Amoy more readily than at Canton. Labourers from this neighbourhood are more athletic, perhaps, than those from other quarters; and as carpenters or builders, they excel all others: still, they are not so strictly frugal as their countrymen of Fuhkien, are possessed of overweening pride, and entertain considerable contempt for foreigners, to whom they owe their increased means of subsistence. The absence of this spirit and its attendant hostile feeling in the districts further north, accounts for the more submissive and subordinate disposition of the coolies of Amoy, who have already been sent to Australia to the number of 3,000, and are now being shipped to the West Indies to a much greater extent.

Men of good character, and also of capital, would be found ready to proceed to the West Indies in the same manner as to the East, if assured of freedom and security, and of good means of trading or investing their money. The success of the first emigrants must, however, be proved, and the accounts they bring back be satisfactory, before they would be followed by monied individuals; nor could permanent settlers of this class be soon looked for in a place so far removed from their own country, and so entirely foreign to them as the West Indies.

One of the Chinese laws regarding subjects going abroad, forbids them to take their families with them; and this seems to be almost the only one on the subject to which due effect has been given. Inquiry, however, will show that the chief reason of its observance exists in the strong repugnance of the Chinese to remove their families, not only to foreign regions, but even to different places in their own country. Women, in Chinese opinion, ought never to quit their homes; and even men are not wholly free from the bias entertained against wandering. Necessity in the case of the latter has overcome prejudice; but whilst they have emigrated by millions, women of respectable character are

nowhere to be met with, not even in Siam or Cochin China, where the tastes and habits of the people are in many respects akin to, and are influenced by those of the Chinese. Although when abroad they may live with native women, they never regard them as their legal wives; but their objections do not extend to the daughters born to their countrymen by these concubines, with whom they freely intermarry. Since, however, the Chinese have had greater command of the superior travelling accommodation of foreign vessels, slight indications of amelioration have been observed even in this deeply-rooted prejudice. At Amoy several instances have been known of stern cabins having been engaged by Chinese passengers for themselves and Chinese wives, and one occurred lately at this port also.

Married persons either return to or constantly revisit their homes in China, but those who go out young and single are often induced, by their connection with native women, and the greater liberty they there enjoy, to stay abroad. The naturalized or Straits-born Chinese of Singapore, &c., are ever ready to assert their privileges as British subjects, and a little too apt to presume upon them when their business brings them to China.

Contracts of this nature would be indispensable to protect the interests both of the emigrants and their employers. It is only the pledged promise of regular pay and provision which induces the coolies to proceed to an unknown locality. They object, however, to any contract which binds them to labour at a fixed rate for more than five or six years; after which time they should be free to make their own arrangements. A contract system has been pursued with them on sugar plantations at Singapore, and found to answer; the proprietor gives the ground to the Chinese, who plant and cultivate the cane at their own expense, and deliver to him the raw sugar at a certain rate. In such case, the great interest which the cultivators have in the production naturally prompts them to do their utmost to secure a good crop.

In shipping coolies, it would be well to avoid, during the voyage, the services of linguists, or of Chinese speaking English from foreign colonies, as they have been found to contribute to insubordination rather than to peace. The presence of a headman respected by the coolies, and charged to watch over both their interests and behaviour, would be productive of good results; he should be treated with deference by the officers and crew, and encouraged to bring with him some of his relations or friends, who would assist him in the task of maintaining order. The emptier the ships are of cargo, and the smaller the advances paid to the coolies, the better. They have no prejudices in regard to food, and complain only when it is unwholesome or insufficient; they are orderly, if not injured, but are apt to resent a blow. The emigrant ships from Amoy have been supplied with Chinese doctors, in addition to European practitioners, which has added materially to the confidence of the coolies; for, however ignorant the former may be of their profession, the coolies naturally incline to attach most faith to the nostrums of their own physicians.

Lastly, it may be observed, that although the Chinese will submit to and require a strict system of control, they become impatient under vexatious and unnecessary restrictions; being accustomed in their own country to a system of government which interferes little with the mass, however arbitrarily and unjustly it may deal with individuals.

(Signed) HARRY PARKES,
Interpreter.

Canton, September 1852.

No. 11.

Dr. Bowring to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received January 17, 1853.)

My Lord, *Hong Kong, November* 26, 1852.

AS your Lordship has requested I would communicate any information and convey any suggestion which I might deem useful in reference to the emigration of coolies from China, I beg to state that the senior naval officer in China, Captain Massie, has communicated to me a letter from Commander Fishbourne, of Her Majesty's steamer "Hermes," lately returned from Amoy; in which he states that he has been informed the coolies were penned up in numbers from ten to twelve in a wooden shed, like a slave barracoon, nearly naked, very filthy, and room only sufficient to lie; the space 120 by 24 feet,

with a bamboo floor near the roof; the number in all about 500. That many had been induced to come into the town by Chinese, and then confined. That the words "No admittance," in English, were over the doors. That many of the men appeared not to be free agents, but escaped when they could. On the other hand, it was stated that some who refused to embark were allowed to leave; that others objected to the treatment, but stated that anything was better than starvation.

Amoy affording no adequate supply for the immense demand, one of the captains of the opium ships at Namoa has, it is reported, provided 1,000 coolies, on account of the Demerara contract.

There is, I am informed, an unusual proportion of lads, whose families are reported to have claimed them in vain. Large numbers have escaped from the boats on the way to the emigrant ships.

Might it not be worthy the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, whether, on the arrival of an emigrant ship in a British colony, a strict investigation should not take place, in order to ascertain whether the coolies are *bonâ fide* voluntary emigrants; that they have not been seduced by falsehoods or kidnapped by force; and in every occasion where such a case is established, that the improperly-obtained emigrant should be sent back to China at the expense of the colony, giving the colony the means of redress against the misdoers?

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

No. 12.

Dr. Bowring to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(*Received February* 14, 1853.)

My Lord, *Hong Kong, December* 20, 1852.

I HAVE to acknowledge your Lordship's despatch dated October the 20th, on the subject of the immigration of Chinese labourers into the colonies of Great Britain, and to express my great satisfaction that Her Majesty's Government have seen fit to appoint an emigration agent, especially charged to secure a proper selection of emigrants, to provide for them kind and becoming treatment on board the vessels that transport them, and to ascertain the fairness and legality of the contracts entered into between them and the colonists. I inclose copy of the circular I have addressed to the Consuls, embodying, I hope, your Lordship's views as conveyed in the communication under acknowledgment.

As many of the abuses which exist in the manner of collecting, contracting for, shipping, and conveying these emigrants do, notwithstanding their multiplicity and their magnitude, escape all official cognizance and control, and the authority possessed or exercised by the Consuls has been wholly inoperative to check such abuses, I cannot but hope that Mr. White's presence will serve to prevent much of the crime and misery which have undoubtedly received a great impulse from the sudden and competing demand, arriving at the same time from many quarters of the globe, for supplies of labour from China.

There can be little doubt that too many of the Chinese officials have been sharers in and profiters by the abominations which unhappily have been so rife; and as of late the public tranquillity has been so seriously compromised at Amoy, in consequence of the misdoings of parties connected with coolie emigration, it is by no means impossible, should accounts reach Peking of what has taken place, that the whole subject may change its position and its character. It is true that the Chinese Government, the local authorities, and the peaceful people, may be willing and desirous to get rid of a miserable, suffering, surplus population, but nothing is so likely to alarm the Government, nothing could be more fatal to our interests and prospects in China, than that the shipment of emigrants should be connected with breaches of the public tranquillity, that it should make foreigners odious to the Chinese people, and interfere with that growing disposition to friendly intercourse which was so remarkable at Amoy and its neighbourhood, and was producing such an extension of our commercial relations until interrupted by the irregularities which have had their origin in the cupidity of the collectors and shippers of coolies.

In another despatch your Lordship will receive such particulars as I have been able to collect, with respect to the riots and bloodshedding at Amoy. I hold myself excused from observing on some paragraphs of the correspondence inclosed

in your Lordship's despatch, attributable to the imperfect knowledge possessed by the colonies of the real state of matters in China, not doubting that Mr. White, with whom I have had the advantage of much intercourse, not only here, but in India, will convey all requisite and useful information to the departments concerned.

I concur in the opinion that Hong Kong may be made, under judicious arrangements, a position where the most desirable portion of voluntary candidates for emigration can be collected; and that, when it is known among the Chinese that in Hong Kong efficient measures are taken to prevent those emigrating from being the victims of misrepresentation, fraud, or force, Hong Kong may become the resort of such labourers as would be most acceptable to the colonies; but I doubt if any amount of superintendence here would, looking at the instruments which must be employed in China, remove the desirableness of a thorough investigation as to the circumstances of every individual case of emigration when the emigrant ship arrives at its destination.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Circular to Her Majesty's Consuls in China.

Sir, *Hong Kong, December* 16, 1852.

THE subject of Chinese coolie emigration for the supply of labour to the British colonies, has, as you are aware, lately occupied the attention of Her Majesty's Government, and after due consideration of the various suggestions as to the means of securing the best selection of labourers, their proper treatment on board during their outward voyage, and the fairness and the legality of the contracts to be entered into between the colonists and the emigrants, it has been determined to appoint a Government Emigration Agent, and Mr. White has been selected for the service, under instructions from the Colonial Department.

Her Majesty's Government, while desirous to encourage the voluntary emigration of Chinese labourers to the British colonies, is quite alive to the possible difficulties of the question in reference to our position in China; for while on the one hand the expatriation of Chinese subjects is not authorized by the laws of the country, on the other, a most extensive emigration has been taking place from certain districts of China, without any the slightest attempt on the part of the authorities to interfere with or prevent such emigration. There is even reason to believe that the removal of a surplus and often suffering population has been looked upon with complacency, alike by the mandarins and the people.

At the same time Her Majesty's Government, applying the same general principles to our relations with China which would direct its conduct towards the Government of other countries with which Great Britain has entered into Treaties of friendship, could not consent that any agent of the Government of Great Britain should, within the territories of a friendly State, be engaged in the organization of any system opposed to the laws of the land, or in opposition to the lawful authorities.

The state of things in China appears, however, in the question of emigration, to justify an exception to the general rule; for whatever may be the written or unwritten law of China as to emigration, the emigration of the subjects of China is daily and repeatedly taking place, without any interference on the part of the authorities to prevent or discourage it. The law is dormant, or a tacit consent is given to its violation.

The emigration, therefore, being an established fact, unprohibited and unchecked by Chinese authority, and the interests of British as well as Chinese subjects being deeply concerned therein, Her Majesty's Government feels it is a duty imposed upon it to place as much as possible the system on a healthy footing, by directing the stream of emigration into the most useful channels, and doing the utmost to protect the interests of the emigrants themselves.

Such objects being evidently to the advantage of the emigrants, and intended to prevent the recurrence of those lamentable events on board emigrant vessels to which public attention has so frequently of late been called, cannot be made a fair subject of complaint from the Chinese authorities, while the emigration of Chinese labourers is unchecked by official interference.

You will clearly understand that Her Majesty's Government would not authorize the Emigration Agent to engage labourers within the Chinese territories, should the Chinese Government alter its policy of non-interference, and give effect to the dormant prohibitions against the emigration of its subjects. In such case, the action of the Emigration Agent must be confined to the colony of Hong Kong, where undoubtedly the securities which his presence would afford, for the protection and comfort of Chinese labourers disposed to emigrate, might induce them to resort as a central station to the spot where such securities are provided.

In fine, should the Chinese Government object or offer impediments to the emigration of Chinese subjects to British colonies, you are required to act in strict conformity to Treaty, and not directly or indirectly to aid or abet the shipment of Chinese emigrants to the colonies of Great Britain. But if Chinese subjects, of their own free will, should prefer to risk the penalty attached to the transgression of the law, and to embark without the aid of the Consul or of the Government Agent, for any place within Her Majesty's dominions, you are not bound to prevent or even to be ostensibly cognizant of such acts; for it is the duty of the Chinese Government to enforce its own laws.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

No. 13.

Dr. Bowring to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(*Received February* 11, 1853.)

My Lord, *Hong Kong, December* 24, 1852.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of Mr. Acting-Consul Backhouse's despatch, dated $\frac{20}{30}$ November, giving some particulars of the shipments of coolies from the port of Amoy.

Your Lordship will observe in this despatch a reference to a subject of extreme gravity,—namely, the shipment of coolies in large quantities from ports and places (principally the opium stations) where, by Treaty, we are prohibited from trading.

Your Lordship has, in the despatch dated 20th October on the subject of coolie emigration, laid down an important principle, that the Chinese Government is bound to enforce the laws of China. But it must not be forgotten that a Government, impotent, corrupt, and disorganized, as is the Government of China, whatever may be its desires, is wholly unable to maintain its own authority and give effect to its own legislation; and it should be remembered that our Treaties with China are part and portion of the law of England, so that it becomes a matter for serious reflection as to how far we may be authorized to allow or to sanction (as, for example, by the superintendence of an official emigration agent out of the five ports) the violation of our own engagements. Associated with these questions are the immense interests, both British and Anglo-Indian, involved in the opium trade, giving at the present moment more than three millions sterling of revenue to India, and furnishing the means of payment for a large portion of the exports from China to Great Britain, her colonies, and the United States. The whole topic is surrounded with the most serious difficulties; difficulties attaching alike to interference and non-interference. I propose addressing your Lordship further on this subject by an early mail, being unwilling to commit myself by hasty suggestions; but I beg respectfully to convey to your Lordship an opinion, that either very distinct and ample instructions should be given to Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary, or he, in conjunction with Her Majesty's naval forces in these regions, must be entrusted with a considerable amount of authority to protect the legitimate interests of commerce and our present and future amicable relations with the Chinese functionaries and people from the consequence of abuses, many in number and great in amount, connected with the irregular and fraudulent shipment of coolies, abuses which even now are not far from placing the coolie emigration in the category of another Slave Trade.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Acting-Consul Backhouse to Dr. Bowring.

Sir, *Amoy, November* 20, 1852.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that since my despatch bearing date 23rd September last, three British vessels have cleared from this port with coolies, all bound to Havana.

Two other British vessels, the "Inchinnan" and "Eleanor Lancaster," have cleared from Amoy in ballast, with the intention of taking coolies on board at Namoa, or some place in its vicinity. The first named vessel proceeds to Havana, the other to Sydney. Should it be found that coolies can be readily obtained at Namoa, I have no doubt other vessels will follow the example of the above-named ships.

There are now in harbour seven British vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of upwards of 4,200 tons, taking or preparing to take coolies on board intended for Demerara, Havana, and Australia.

Further particulars respecting the vessels that have left I shall obtain from the consignees ere I close this despatch, and before I meet with an opportunity of forwarding it to your Excellency I shall probably be able to report the clearing of two or three of the vessels now loading.

November 30.

The circumstances in which we are all placed (reported in my despatch of the 27th instant) will sufficiently account for my not being able, at present, to make a fuller report on the subject in hand. I trust that my next report will contain more matter for your Excellency's consideration.

Since the date of the present despatch, the "Samuel Boddington" had cleared for Demerara, the "Royal Saxon" for Sydney, and the "Lady Amherst" for Havana. These vessels, as well as those previously named, took on an average 350 coolies each, for whom the usual amount of accommodation, provisions, &c., were provided. I have, &c.

(Signed) J. BACKHOUSE.

No. 14.

Dr. Bowring to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(*Received February* 14, 1853.)

My Lord, *Hong Kong, December* 27, 1852.

I AM sorry to have to report to your Lordship that Amoy has been the scene of much disturbance and disorder, accompanied with loss of life, the result of the irregularities and abuses connected with coolie emigration. The very imperfect accounts I received from the Consulate, and the gravity of the interests compromised, induced me, after consultation with the senior naval officer on the Chinese station, to send up Mr. Secretary Harvey, in Her Majesty's steamer "Hermes," in order thoroughly to investigate the causes of an outbreak which I found, from many private communications, had caused much anxiety, and to examine into the more general question as to the manner in which coolie emigration was carried on at Amoy; it having been represented to me from several unofficial quarters that the public peace was seriously compromised, large amounts of property placed in jeopardy, and the amicable relations between the subjects of Great Britain and China likely to be interrupted by the misdoings of the instruments and agents engaged in the collection and exportation of Chinese labourers. Mr. White, who had not then received official notice of his appointment as Emigration Agent, applied for permission to proceed in the "Hermes," and I most readily complied with his wish.

I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Backhouse, dated 27th November. That despatch was accompanied by a private letter, stating that he believed the riots were attributable to an attempt made by Mr. Syme (of the house of Syme, Muir, and Co.), to rescue a coolie broker from the hands of the Chinese authorities. I have the honour to inclose copy of my

reply to Mr. Backhouse's despatch, dated December 9th, and of my instructions to Mr. Secretary Harvey of the same date.

The "Hermes" returned to Hong Kong on the 21st instant, and I have now to inclose to your Lordship copy of a communication and its inclosures from Mr. Acting-Consul Backhouse, stating that Mr. Syme has been fined 200 dollars, and his assistant Mr. Cornabé 20 dollars, payable to Her Majesty, according to the provisions of the Treaty of Amity between Great Britain and China, the finding being that Mr. Syme (who was accompanied by Mr. Cornabé) visited a police-court at Amoy on the 21st November, on the subject of a coolie broker, with a view to obtaining his release, and thereby, according to the charge, caused a riot, in which two British subjects were assaulted.

I have received from Mr. Harvey, and have now the honour to inclose, an interesting report, accompanied with a mass of depositions and documents throwing much light upon the whole subject; and I beg to express my thorough and hearty approval of the manner in which Mr. Harvey has discharged the serious and delicate duties of his mission. I am persuaded that the arrival of the "Hermes," the investigations consequent thereon, the punishment of the guilty British merchants, and the assurances given that Her Majesty's Government will rigidly inquire into and severely chastise the offences of which Her Majesty's subjects may be guilty against the subjects of China, will do much to restore that amicable and extending intercourse which had been placed in peril.

I beg to state to your Lordship, with reference to the barracoon in front of the foreign hongs, that I completely concur with Mr. Harvey's opinion that it must be taken down; that its removal is alike demanded for the security of British persons and property, and for the preservation of the public peace. I have desired private intimation to be given to Mr. Syme that he had better quietly remove this cause of offence, and I hope that this may be effectual. If not, I shall desire Mr. Backhouse to come to some understanding with the Mandarins on the subject, and if the plea is urged that the property is Spanish, to call upon the Spanish Consul Mr. Tait, who is a subject of Her Britannic Majesty, to interpose his authority. The large amount of British property at Amoy is uninsured, and though I understand a circular has been sent to their constituents by some of the merchants at Amoy, stating that the Mandarins will be called upon to give compensation for any damage done to British property by the violence of the mob, I have not been applied to to authorize, nor have I authorized, any such statement to be made, especially under present circumstances.

I have no report from Mr. Backhouse respecting the claim of 5,000 dollars made by Mr. Vallancey on the Chinese authorities, for injuries done to his person during the riots, and of counter claims made by those authorities on account of the loss of life by innocent persons. I may state, however, that such claims are rigidly enforced by Chinese laws against Chinamen who are the cause of the accidental death of others, of which a case has occurred within the last month at Canton, where an opulent Chinese merchant has been compelled to give compensation to, and make provision for, the families of a number of persons killed or wounded by the accidental explosion of a gunpowder manufactory, though the gunpowder was to be employed against the rebels. The immediate departure of the mail necessitates the closing this despatch. There will be no time to copy Commander Fishbourne's report, which will no doubt be sent to the Lords of the Admiralty; but I must not omit to state that the co-operation and assistance afforded by Commander Fishbourne have been of the greatest value.

Mr. Pedder having obtained three months' leave of absence from Amoy, in consequence of ill health, and the departure of Dr. Winchester for England, having left the Consulate without adequate strength, I have, in the existing state of things, thought it desirable to despatch Mr. G. S. Morrison from Canton thither, and to invest him temporarily with the duties of first assistant. I am glad to say that he has lately been diligently and successfully attentive to the study of the Chinese language. I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 14.

Acting-Consul Backhouse to Dr. Bowring.

Sir, *Amoy, November 27, 1852.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency an atrocious outrage, committed on the evening of the 21st instant, by an armed party of Chinese soldiers.

The soldiers in question seeing Mr. Mackay, a clerk in the house of Messrs. Tait and Co., passing the street in front of their station, attacked him with stones—some of which struck him on the head—and drove him into an alley from which there was no exit, and having penned him in there whilst they held some converse with him, they eventually allowed him to repass, after giving him a blow over the head with the sharp edge of a spear, which inflicted a wound about two inches in length.

Soon after, Mr. Vallancey, the chief mate of the English ship "Australia," was passing the same place in company with a friend, when they too were at once attacked by the soldiers. The friend managed to effect his escape, but Mr. Vallancey was not so fortunate, and, being first brought to the ground by a spear-thrust in his thigh, was, whilst in that helpless state, treated in a most savage manner, receiving cuts over each temple, one spear-thrust in the upper part of his left arm, five or six wounds in his right thigh, one in the abdomen, and some others, besides sustaining much injury from the blows inflicted on his head with sticks or stones. So seriously was he injured, that his life was at first despaired of; and his state is still very precarious.

On hearing of this affair, I proceeded to the foreign hongs to ascertain the particulars. On arriving there I found Captain Ellman and a strong party from Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Salamander," with whom and a party of the residents several of the streets were patrolled without finding anything calculated to increase our anxiety.

The next day, the news of this matter having spread over the town, the uneasiness of all the inhabitants who had anything to lose was very great, and all the shops were shut. At the same time the town became flooded with vagabonds from the neighbourhood, who, uniting with the bad characters of the town, soon evinced their determination of plundering the hongs of the foreign community, as well as of robbing their own countrymen.

For some time they were held in check by the sight of the preparations made to receive them; but at length, on the forenoon of Wednesday, the 24th instant, the aspect of things was so threatening that a very strong party of men was landed from the steamer to prevent the sacking of the hongs. Their presence awed the mob for a short time, but at length the crowd, which was rapidly increasing, made a most determined attack on the hong occupied by Messrs. Syme, Muir and Co. The men-of-war's men behaved with great forbearance, though, on their interfering, the mob transferred their attack from the hong to them, pelting them with heavy stones, which many of them did not throw until they had run nearly up to the bayonets of the marines. These latter more than once cleared the ground, which was a narrow strip, by pushing the mob off it without using their bayonets, but were as often compelled to retire again, and twice were driven for refuge into the hong they were guarding. Their forbearance was naturally misconstrued by the plunderers, whose numbers and daring increased momentarily. At length Lieutenant Smith, who was in command of the seamen and marines, and who himself had twice been struck down by stones, finding that further delay on his part to act would seriously compromise the safety of his men, and consequently, that of the lives and property of the foreign residents, reluctantly gave the order to fire. As soon as the rabble found they were opposed by force they at once decamped, and no attack has since been made. As many of the men did not fire, and a number of the muskets were discharged over the heads of the people, the loss of the crowd in killed and wounded was not very great.

Yesterday, matters wearing a somewhat better appearance, Mr. Pedder and the Haifang went on board the "Australia" to see the wounded mate, and thence proceeded to view the bodies of the Chinese killed by the fire of the "Salamander's" men. He reports that they viewed four bodies, and saw three wounded people. Two more wounded men are on board the steamer under the care of

her medical officers; so that the total number of killed and wounded may be estimated at from ten to twelve.

The local authorities state that they fully approve of what has been done on our part, and hope we shall keep fully prepared against attack for some days longer, as thousands of men are pouring in from all the country round for the purpose of plundering, and that, until they retire, it would be in the highest degree imprudent for our men to be withdrawn from the hongs.

We all have been, and still are, so fully occupied with the measures necessary for our defence, and for obtaining redress for the outrage perpetrated on Sunday last, that your Excellency will hardly expect a fuller account of this occurrence at present.

The local authorities express their readiness to make an example of the soldiers (whose culpability they attempt not to deny) so soon as the restoration of order shall leave them at leisure to bring the culprits to trial.

I am sorry to state that Mr. Pedder, who is slowly recovering from a severe attack of fever, has suffered so much from the continued bodily and mental exertion which unavoidably devolved on him as interpreter during the last few days, combined with want of rest for five nights, that he yesterday sunk under it. Happily the prompt and judicious measures adopted by Dr. Foster, of the "Salamander," prevented a return of fever; and Mr. Pedder, being somewhat recovered to-day, has insisted on returning to his work, a determination which I cannot oppose, since, pending the arrival of Mr. Sinclair, his services are indispensable.

In conclusion, I have only to state that I do not think we require any further assistance, as now that the mob finds that we are determined to defend ourselves, no more attacks are likely to be made, and, if there should be another, the "Salamander" and merchant-ships in harbour could furnish enough men to protect the residences of the merchants. The authorities have been held responsible for the safety of the store-hongs situated in the town; and the missionaries, possessing nothing to tempt the cupidity of marauders, are safe from attack.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. BACKHOUSE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 14.

Dr. Bowring to Acting-Consul Backhouse.

Sir, *Hong Kong, December* 9, 1852.

I HAVE received your despatch dated the 27th of November, communicating particulars of an outrage committed by Chinese soldiers on British subjects, reporting the dangers to which the hongs of the merchants have been exposed, the interference of Her Majesty's naval forces, and the loss of life which ensued.

As it appears by your private communication to me, and by sundry letters I have received from other quarters, that these tumultuous proceedings had their origin in the interference of a British merchant with some of the authorities at Amoy, and an attempt to rescue from their custody a person engaged in obtaining coolie immigrants; and as it is equally the duty of Her Majesty's officers to protect the Chinese against the aggressions of any of her subjects, as to protect the persons and property of our own countrymen; I have thought it desirable to dispatch Mr. Harvey on board Her Majesty's steamer "Hermes," in order to assist you in any inquiries which may be desirable, not only to throw light on the causes of the late disturbances, but to investigate generally the subject of coolie emigration.

Mr. Harvey will not interfere to control you in the exercise of your Consular jurisdiction, nor do I desire to lay down special instructions for your guidance; but it will be satisfactory to me that you should determine on instituting a formal judicial investigation as to what has occurred, both for my own information and that of Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. Harvey is authorized to show you the instructions I have given him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

Inclosure 3 in No. 14.

Dr. Bowring to Mr. Harvey.

Sir, *Hong Kong, December* 9, 1852.

THE events which have taken place at Amoy are of so grave a character, and the interests involved are so important, that I have decided on sending you to Amoy on board Her Majesty's steamer "Hermes," Captain Fishbourne, in order that you may thoroughly investigate and report on all the circumstances connected with the late outrages.

Though I do not wish, with the imperfect information we possess, strictly to mark out the course of proceedings, it appears to me that if Mr. Acting-Consul Backhouse have not already summoned a Consular Court, such a step would be most desirable, in order that all the facts connected with the late disorders may be submitted to a judicial inquiry.

It is stated in sundry letters which have reached me, and some of which I have communicated to you, that the riots at Amoy had their origin in some proceedings of a British merchant claiming from the Chinese authorities a man whom they held in custody, and who had been connected with the collector of coolies for foreign shipment. To the circumstances associated with these proceedings you will give your special attention.

I am desirous you should avail yourself of the opportunity you will possess on this occasion of instituting a searching investigation as to the manner in which this coolie emigration has been carried on, especially with reference to British ships, British subjects, and British colonies. You are well aware that many non-official statements have reached the Superintendency as to the abuses which have taken place; that persons are stated to have been kidnapped by fraud and force, seduced by false representations, and otherwise conveyed on board emigrant ships without their own consent and in ignorance of the conditions of their shipment. I need not tell you that any such proceedings would be the object of the utmost abhorrence, and meet with the gravest censure from Her Majesty's Government, and that any British subject who should be a willing party to such malpractices would be responsible to every pain and penalty of the law.

You will use, in co-operation with Her Majesty's Acting-Consul, all diligence consistent with the thorough investigation of the matters in question, so as to avoid any unnecessarily prolonged absence from the Superintendency.

Captain Massie will have given the needful instructions to Commander Fishbourne, of Her Majesty's steamer "Hermes," on all matters connected with Her Majesty's navy, and I have no doubt you will find his presence in every respect useful and valuable.

As there have been several vessels dispatched with coolies from Namoa, it is probable Captain Fishbourne will call at that station on her way down, and you will also obtain all information as to the proceedings in that locality.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

Inclosure 4 in No. 14.

Acting-Consul Backhouse to Dr. Bowring.

Sir, *Amoy, December* 18, 1852.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 9th instant, by Her Majesty's steamer "Hermes," which arrived here on the 12th. Mr. Harvey and Captain Fishbourne came up on Monday, and with me held a Court of Inquiry respecting the disturbances which took place here on the 21st and 24th ultimo, and it lasted until yesterday the 17th. As Mr. Harvey takes down all the evidence obtained on that occasion, and my being very shorthanded at present, I trust that your Excellency will pardon me for not inclosing it in this despatch.

Mr. Syme, Mr. Cornabé, a clerk in his house, and Mr. Connolly, a partner in Messrs. Tait and Co's., appeared at the Consulate, in accordance with their summonses issued yesterday; the two former stood their trials for a breach of the Treaty on the 21st ultimo, by going to a police station and rescuing a

coolie-broker, who was in their employ, from the hands of the Mandarins; the latter was not tried, owing to the absconding of the coolies, who were to appear against him, for misprision in confining them against their will on board the "Emigrant" depôt ship; but I gave him a warning as to his future conduct, and impressed on his mind that if he were again complained of, I should visit him with the utmost rigour of the law.

Mr. Syme having been, in open court attended by two assessors, clearly proved guilty of the charge preferred against him, I have fined him the sum of 200 dollars, payable to Her Majesty the Queen; and Mr. Cornabé, pleading guilty to the offence charged against him in the prosecution, has been sentenced to pay a fine of 20 dollars to Her Majesty the Queen, in conformity with Ordinance No. 5 of 1844.

The rapid departure of Her Majesty's steamer "Hermes" prevents me from entering into further details at present, and I confine myself to inclosing copies of the examination, defence, and judgment, elicited during the trial.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. BACKHOUSE.

Inclosure 5 in No. 14.

Minutes of Consular Court at Amoy.

QUEEN *versus* SYME.

MINUTES at a Consular Court held at the British Consulate at Amoy on the 18th of December, 1852, to try Francis Darby Syme, merchant, for a breach of the Treaty between Her Britannic Majesty and the Emperor of China, signed on the 29th day of August, 1842, and the supplement thereto, signed on the 8th day of October, 1843.

PRESENT:

John Backhouse, Esq., Her Majesty's Vice-Consul in charge;
Rev. William Young; and
Dr. J. H. Young, Assessors.

CHARGE.

First. For that the said Francis Darby Syme, merchant, of Amoy, did on the 21st ultimo visit a police-court in Amoy, on the subject of a Chinese coolie-broker, then under punishment by the authorities for a breach of Chinese law, thereby causing a riot, in which two British subjects were assaulted.

Second. For that he the said Francis Darby Syme did on the 21st ultimo assault a subject of the Emperor of China.

Francis Darby Syme called and placed at the bar.

By the Vice-Consul in charge:—Mr. Syme, from the evidence given before a Court of Inquiry into the cause of the late riots at Amoy, I have deemed it my duty to bring you to trial on the charges just read. They are supported both by your own statement and the evidence of William Alexander Cornabé, your clerk, and partly by a letter from his Excellency the Taoutee of Amoy, an extract from which I now read: say, are you guilty or not guilty?—*A.* Not guilty.

Mr. William Alexander Cornabé called into Court.

Mr. F. D. Syme.—I object to the evidence given at the late court of inquiry by Mr. William Alexander Cornabé being read in this Court, and also object to his being called as a witness against me; first, he is my servant; and secondly, he is here on his own defence.

The Vice-Consul.—The objection cannot stand good.

William Alexander Cornabé being duly sworn, is examined.

Q. Is the evidence which I now read, and which you gave before a court of inquiry on the 13th instant, the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?—*A.* It is.

The evidence given before the court of inquiry by William Alexander Cornabé on the 13th December, 1852, was read.

Mr. Syme.—I object to the evidence given by me before the court of inquiry on the 13th December, 1852, being read in this Court.

Q. Why do you object to your evidence being read?—*A.* I object to having that evidence produced in this Court, because, before giving it on oath at the court of inquiry, I was not previously warned that such evidence would be used against me, either there or in any other Court.

William Alexander Cornabé recalled, and sworn.

Q. In your former evidence just read, you state, "We went to the police-court": whom did you mean?—*A.* I meant Mr. Syme and myself.

Q. Did Mr. Syme communicate personally with the Mandarin?—*A.* No.

Q. Who did?—*A.* I did.

Q. You state in the evidence before referred to, "We inquired": whom did you mean then?—*A.* I was used as interpreter, and I only spoke.

Q. Then Mr. Syme had communication through you with the Mandarin?—*A.* Yes.

Q. State what passed.—*A.* I have before given it in evidence.

Q. On your second visit to the police-court you have stated you were attacked: was this before or after the coolie-broker was liberated from the mob?—*A.* I did not see the coolie-broker liberated at all.

By Mr. Syme.—Was there any other European present with us at the police-court?—*A.* No.

At this time a translated copy of a deposition made before the Haefang by the coolie-broker referred to in the charge, was handed in and read:

"On the 22nd of November, previous to the receipt of these despatches [the Taoutae here alludes to Mr. Backhouse's two letters, dated 23rd November, 1852, complaining of an assault upon two British subjects], the report had reached me, that one of a party of three Englishmen, being excited by liquor, had on the evening of the 21st (November) commenced bullying some soldiers and others, who were standing outside of the Chungting's Yamun, about Chinese coolies whom they (the English) had purchased, and that a scuffle had ensued."

True Translation,

(Signed) CHARLES A. SINCLAIR, *Interpreter.*

Mr. Syme.—I object to this deposition being received as evidence.

Q. Upon what grounds do you object to the deposition being received as evidence?—*A.* Because it has not been deposed to before a magistrate or any proper authority, and that the party so deposing has not been confronted with me, or brought into this Court to give me an opportunity of testing the truth of his deposition. The document further does not appear to have been sworn to according to the custom usual among the Chinese.

Q. Have you anything farther to say, any witnesses to call, or any defence to submit?—*A.* No.

FINDING.

From the evidence brought before them, the Court find that you, Francis Darby Syme, did, contrary to the Treaty existing between Her Majesty the Queen and the Emperor of China, visit a police-court in Amoy, on the 21st ultimo, on the subject of a coolie-broker, with a view to obtaining his release, as stated in the charge, and that you have been therefore guilty of a breach of the aforesaid Treaty.

SENTENCE.

That you, Francis Darby Syme, having been found guilty of a breach of the Treaty existing between Her Britannic Majesty and the Emperor of China, are hereby fined in the sum of 200 dollars to Her Majesty the Queen, subject to the approval of his Excellency Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary in China.

(Signed) J. BACKHOUSE,
Her Majesty's Vice-Consul, in charge, for Amoy.

Assessors:

(Signed) W. YOUNG.
J. H. YOUNG, M.D.

Inclosure 6 in No. 14.

Minutes of Consular Court at Amoy.

QUEEN *versus* CORNABE.

MINUTES at a Consular Court held at the British Consulate at Amoy, on the 18th day of December, 1852, to try William Alexander Cornabé, an English resident in this place, for a breach of the Treaty between Her Britannic Majesty and the Emperor of China, signed on the 29th day of August, 1842, and the Supplement thereto, signed on the 8th day of October, 1843.

PRESENT:

John Backhouse, Esq., Her Majesty's Vice-Consul, in charge;
Rev. William Young; and
Dr. J. H. Young, Assessors.

CHARGE.

For that the said William Alexander Cornabé did, on the 21st ultimo, visit a police court in Amoy, on the subject of a Chinese coolie broker, then under punishment by the authorities for a breach of Chinese law, thereby causing a riot, in which two British subjects were assaulted.

William Alexander Cornabé called and placed at the bar.

By the Vice-Consul in charge: William Alexander Cornabé, from a deposition made and evidence given by you at a court of inquiry into the cause of the late disturbances in Amoy, I have deemed it my duty to bring you to trial on the charge just read: say, are you guilty, or not guilty?—Answer, Guilty, and I admit my former evidence.

SENTENCE.

That you, William Alexander Cornabé, having by your own plea been found guilty of a breach of the Treaty existing between Her Britannic Majesty and the Emperor of China, are hereby fined in the sum of 20 dollars to Her Majesty the Queen, subject to the approval of his Excellency Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary in China. You will understand that the smallness of your fine is in consequence of its appearing that you had in a manner been acting under the influence of Mr. Francis Darby Syme, the head of the house by whom you are employed.

(Signed) J. BACKHOUSE,
Her Majesty's Vice-Consul, in charge, for Amoy.

Assessors:
(Signed) W. YOUNG.
J. H. YOUNG, M.D.

Inclosure 7 in No. 14.

Mr. Harvey to Dr. Bowring.

Sir, *Hong Kong, December* 22, 1852.

IN compliance with your Excellency's instructions, I embarked, on the 9th instant, on board Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Hermes," Commander Fishbourne, and arrived at Amoy on Sunday morning, the 12th. Having dispatched a message to Mr. Acting-Consul Backhouse, this gentleman came on board, and a consultation was then held with Commander Fishbourne as to the best and speediest mode of proceeding, in order to arrive at a thorough understanding of the causes of the late riots at Amoy, and of the manner in which coolie emigration has been carried on during the past months at that port: these two points forming the basis of the instructions with which I had been furnished by your Excellency.

We arrived at the conclusion that a preliminary but formal investigation, in

which the witnesses should be examined upon oath, would be the most satisfactory course to pursue, as there could be no doubt that out of such an inquiry much valuable and reliable information, both on the subject of the riots and on the coolie emigration system, as at present carried on at Amoy, would be elicited; and in this expectation I may say that we have not been disappointed.

Summonses were accordingly issued to the greater portion of the community to attend at the Consulate; and I now have the honour to inclose to your Excellency the minutes of the investigation in question, which, commencing on Monday, the 13th, was protracted to the 17th, during which time the whole of the British mercantile community were examined, independently of English and American missionaries, and several Chinese. The evidence which has thus been obtained is of so complete and so satisfactory a character, in so far as reliable and useful information is concerned, that I have but little to add in this report. I shall, however, trespass on your Excellency with a few observations and opinions upon the late events, which I hope your Excellency will not deem out of place.

I shall, in the first place, advert to the causes of the riots. I am of opinion, after a patient inquiry, that they are to be attributed partly, if not wholly, to the unauthorized and irregular proceedings adopted by Mr. Syme: first, by going, on Sunday evening, the 21st of November, to the police-station to release one of his coolie brokers, then under punishment by his own authorities; and, secondly, by harbouring in his own house this very broker, after he had, by Mr. Syme's intervention, made his escape from the hands of the people, to whom he appears somehow to have been handed over by the inferior Mandarin, before Mr. Syme's second visit to the police-station. It is idle for Mr. Syme to say that he did not go to the station with the view of releasing this man. He went there, upon his own admission—and not only once, but a second time—on hearing from his Shroff, whom he met on his way home, that he had been deceived by the Mandarin, and that the man under punishment was really Mr. Syme's broker. And it was during this second visit that the people who then had possession of the broker, upon recognizing Mr. Syme, made that assault upon him and his clerk, the particulars of which appear in the evidence. These two gentlemen, as well as the broker, made their escape with some difficulty, in which they succeeded, owing to the confusion and twilight; but the anger of the people was aroused, and it was, I regret to add, with the connivance, if not assistance, of the Chinese military, that that anger was displayed upon the persons of Mr. Mackay, a clerk in Tait and Co.'s firm; of Mr. Vallancey, the chief officer of the "Australian" (whose life was for a time despaired of); and of Mr. Walthew, a passenger in the same ship; the two latter being at the time totally ignorant of what had taken place at the police-station, and quietly returning to their ship. There is every reason to suppose, from Mr. Walthew's personal appearance, that he was mistaken by the populace for Mr. Syme. Be that as it may, he escaped, comparatively speaking, unhurt; but Mr. Vallancey's wounds are of a very serious nature; and, as I verbally informed your Excellency, he has sent in a claim of 5,000 dollars, to be pressed by Her Majesty's Acting-Consul upon the Chinese authorities, as compensation for the serious injuries which he has received. I may add, that the Amoy Haefang (marine magistrate) went on board the "Australia," and visited Mr. Vallancey; but notwithstanding this Mandarin's visit, and his consequent knowledge of Mr. Vallancey's injuries, I think it will be very difficult to obtain the compensation in question.

On Monday morning, the day following the release of the broker, the shops of Amoy were all closed; great excitement prevailed in the place; but it was not until Wednesday morning that the people assembled around Mr. Syme's hong with threatening gestures, and showing every disposition to attack his premises. The crowd thus assembled was composed partly of respectable persons claiming the broker then located in Mr. Syme's hong, and partly of vagabonds who, having heard of the excitement prevailing in the city, had come from the neighbouring villages in the hope of plunder. Before they had proceeded to any length, the broker was removed from the house under an escort sent by the mandarins; but his surrender was unfortunately somewhat tardy, for the rabble, who had only assembled for booty and plunder, and cared little if anything for the broker, were not to be balked in their expectations. They therefore commenced their attack upon Mr. Syme's premises, and would certainly have proceeded to extremities had they not been repulsed and driven off by the fire from the party of marines and sailors from Her Majesty's steam-

sloop "Salamander." The rabble then totally dispersed, and tranquillity was once more restored.

The above is an outline of what took place on Sunday and Wednesday, and I imagine your Excellency will not fail to perceive the link which connects the two days, and to agree with me in thinking, that Mr. Syme did, by his two visits to the police-station on Sunday evening (thereby causing the release of the broker) give rise to the disturbances and consequent assault which immediately followed, and that by harbouring this broker until Wednesday morning, (thus screening him from the application of the laws of his country, which the people of Amoy loudly demanded), Mr. Syme became guilty of a violation of one of the provisions of our Treaty, and instrumental in bringing about that excitement in the public mind, followed by the attack on his hong, which led to circumstances of so distressing and painful a nature.

From the inclosed evidence, obtained from many disinterested eye-witnesses, it is quite clear that the party of marines and sailors from the "Salamander" did not fire on the people until several of the former had been struck by stones and brickbats, and their commanding officer had been twice knocked down by missiles. The fury of the mob was then at its height, the foreign hongs were in absolute danger of pillage and destruction, and it became necessary to act in self-defence by firing on the assailants. It is impossible to ascertain accurately the number of killed and wounded, but from all that I could learn I estimate the former at seven or eight, and the latter at between twelve and sixteen. Independently of these I must not omit to say that four others, who were not mixed up or had anything to do with the rabble, were accidentally killed by stray shots; amongst these a child, at her mother's breast. For these the authorities told me that they were prepared to send in claims for compensation, if Mr. Vallancey's demand be pressed upon them.

Now, with respect to the mode in which coolie emigration has lately been carried on at Amoy, I think, and my opinion will be corroborated by the evidence, that some of our merchants have been much to blame for the reckless manner (to say the least of it) in which coolies have been obtained. Ships arrive in port subject to a heavy demurrage; coolies are therefore immediately wanted; they must be had at any cost; that is the principal point; the means adopted in obtaining them are of an entirely secondary consideration. Men of the lowest possible character are employed to supply the wants of the merchants; these men, called coolie-brokers, go about in every direction in search of coolies. As they receive so much per head, it requires but a very superficial knowledge of the Chinese mind and character to foresee what the result must be; that is, that abuses, fraud, deception, and, in some instances, kidnapping (but not many cases of the latter, as men are not easily kidnapped after 17 or 18 years of age), are the natural consequences of the premium so paid for every man. It is very well to declare that the coolies thus obtained are free agents, by their own admission. But would it not be well for the merchants to ascertain thoroughly how such and such a coolie has been induced to emigrate? whether he has not, for example, pawned himself to the broker, who makes him declare whatever he pleases? These are considerations which ought not to be neglected. And until more care and attention is given to the mode in which coolies are obtained and shipped, abuses will creep into all arrangements, and no healthy or beneficial system of emigration can possibly be established at Amoy.

There are in the inclosed evidence too many cases in support of the above opinion and statements, and to them I would refer your Excellency for further information as to the mode in which coolie emigration has been lately carried on at Amoy; and also respecting the abuses, and worse than abuses, which have been the natural result of the recklessness and cupidity of shippers, and the employment of rascally brokers. There is, however, one point which I must bring to your Excellency's particular attention, and that is the existence of a disgusting and obnoxious shed, in front of Mr. Syme's hong, built for the reception of coolies. A rough sketch of this shed, or rather barracoon, is appended to the evidence. Into this shed are huddled together what Mr. Syme calls "Applicants for Emigration," until such time as they are ready to be shipped off. As regards the degree of freedom and comfort which they enjoy in this den, I must again refer your Excellency to the evidence. Therein will, I think, be seen, that the boasted-of freedom possessed by these poor wretches is about on a par with the comforts and attention which they enjoy. I think it my duty

to state explicitly, that I look upon this barracoon as a disgrace to the British name and character at Amoy, and I am happy to say that it is the only one now standing; but it is a blot which should by every possible means in our power be obliterated. This measure I have urged in the strongest terms on Mr. Backhouse, and I trust that something may be done at once to remove this obnoxious building. I was given to understand at Amoy that Mr. Syme had made, or intended to make, over this barracoon to a Spaniard (thereby apparently removing his own interest therein). It is however to be hoped, that notwithstanding this transfer Mr. Syme will be made to pull it down. It is situated right in front of his dwelling, part of it over the water, and so long as it stands in its present position, so close to the other British hongs, there will be no safety of life or security of property to British subjects in the vicinity, because this barracoon is an eyesore and a source of irritation and annoyance to the people, and will be the cause sooner or later of some serious disturbance at Amoy. In corroboration of this opinion I have only to refer to Mr. Connolly's evidence. I would therefore press on your Excellency the adoption of every legal means for its removal. It would indeed be a neglect of duty on our part if the tranquillity and security of property hitherto enjoyed at Amoy by foreigners of all classes were allowed, for the gratification of one solitary individual, to be imperilled by the continuance of this public nuisance.

Whilst upon the subject of the relations between the Chinese and foreigners at Amoy, I may state that up to the late disturbances the most friendly and amicable feelings have existed between them. Your Excellency is well aware that the port has latterly become very important as a place of trade, and promises before long to increase in importance to a considerable extent. It is necessary, therefore, to watch narrowly that no counteracting influence be allowed to work against the common good.

The late riots, I am sorry to say, have left a very bad impression on the minds of the people. There is an under current of bad feeling directed against foreigners which it will take months, if not years, of forbearance and honest dealings thoroughly to eradicate. I would therefore recommend the non-removal at the present moment, even temporarily, of the protection afforded by a man-of-war. I saw enough of the people to perceive that they have not yet recovered from the late ferment and excitement; therefore it will be necessary for foreigners to use the utmost discretion in their dealings with them, and to make every effort to allay the excitement and remove the bad impression which the late events have naturally left on the minds of the Amoy population: particularly at the present moment, when we are approaching to the end of the Chinese year, great forbearance and caution should be exercised.

I would now advert to my proceedings with the authorities whilst at Amoy. I twice visited the Haefang, unaccompanied by Mr. Backhouse, whose bad health did not permit him to move about much. On my first visit I had obtained with some difficulty permission to examine the broker whose release was caused by Mr. Syme's visit to the police-station; but the police mandarin himself was not to be seen—he was reported to have left Amoy, though we ascertained that he was quietly ensconced in the city. The authorities would not allow me to take the broker to the Consulate, for fear the Amoy people would "tear him to pieces" on his way thither; but having agreed to allow me to question him at their Ya-mun (dwelling-house and office), I proceeded there next day, accompanied by Commander Fishbourne and two of his officers. When, however, the man was carried into the hall, he had been so mutilated and starved that he was on the point of death, and it became impossible to proceed to any interrogation.

I beg to inclose minutes of my two visits. With reference to the indignation affectedly expressed by the mandarins as respects coolie emigration in general, and coolie brokers in particular, I really believe that there is not, and has not been, a man shipped from Amoy without their full knowledge; and that, if report speaks true, they have not been without their share of the profits derived by the brokers from coolie shipments. I dare say that for some time to come they will endeavour to put a stop to irregularities by proclamations, because the last lesson has been a somewhat severe one to them personally, and they have the people against them and the brokers; but these proclamations will not affect free emigration, notwithstanding what they state with regard to the laws of the Empire.

The people however have now taken the law into their own hands, by assaulting every broker they meet in the streets; hardly a day passes that some broker is not assailed by the populace, by whom he would undoubtedly be killed if he were not rescued and sent to the authorities. Commander Fishbourne and myself rescued a man under these circumstances, and I was personally witness to two or three cases of this nature.

After a careful review of the whole of the evidence, and an attentive consideration of the causes which led to the late events, I am of opinion that much mischief might have been avoided had the parties concerned in coolie emigration acted with more prudence and consideration.

Your Excellency will learn from the minutes of my meetings with the authorities that they complained most bitterly of a habit (which will surprise your Excellency as much as it did myself) the merchants have adopted at Amoy, of sending messages to them, and occasionally of going in person to their public offices to obtain the release of Chinese brokers, &c., then in the hands of those authorities; an unauthorized and irregular mode of proceeding unheard of at any other port. I trust means will be found to put a stop to such practices as soon as possible. Beyond this complaint, which the mandarins made with great bitterness, as lowering, they said, their position and dignity in the eyes of the people, they expressed great delight at the arrival of the "Hermes" and of an officer sent by Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary, as it showed the interest the British Government took in the late events, and the importance it attached to a good understanding between the two people. On my informing them of the Court of Investigation which I intended holding with Commander Fishbourne and Mr. Backhouse, they appeared to be much pleased, and there is no doubt that upon their own minds, as well as upon the minds of the Amoy people, all of whom knew well the object of our investigation, the visit of the "Hermes" will have a most salutary and beneficial effect. I may further add that the facts which have been elicited during the inquiry, and the knowledge that such facts will be generally made public in China, will tend to render the coolie emigration trade more respectable than it has hitherto been, owing to the manner in which it has been carried on; and if even this is the only result obtained, your Excellency can but have to congratulate yourself on having decided in sending up the "Hermes" to Amoy.

After the inquiry had terminated, Mr. Backhouse having been convinced that there was sufficient evidence to bring Mr. Syme and his clerk before a Consular Court for offences committed on Sunday evening, if not for what took place on the Wednesday following, these gentlemen were tried before two assessors, and Mr. Syme fined 200 dollars, and his clerk Mr. Cornabé 20 dollars. A summons had likewise been served on Mr. Connolly, a partner in the firm of Tait and Co., who was to have been tried for misprisonment; but unfortunately the witnesses in this case made their escape from the Consular jail. Owing to the absence of these witnesses, the case fell to the ground, and Mr. Connolly was informed of it in court, when Mr. Backhouse read to him the inclosed paper, in which he was warned as to his future proceedings in regard to the shipment of coolies.

In addition to the above-mentioned documents, I beg to inclose translation of a proclamation furnished to me by the Amoy Haefang, warning the people against the malpractices of the coolie-brokers, and of two additional proclamations by the same officer; also translation of the deposition made before the authorities by Mr. Syme's coolie-broker, and copy of survey held on three vessels loading with coolies at Amoy. These papers, with those appended to the inclosed minutes, will throw much light upon the whole subject, and complete the series of documentary evidence had in the investigation in question.

The day after the Consular Court above referred to, the "Hermes" left Amoy, and the following morning we arrived at Namoa, an opium station 160 miles to the northward of Hong Kong, where Commander Fishbourne and myself examined Mr. Gerard, commanding an opium vessel at that station. From what we learnt from Mr. Gerard, it appears that coolies are easily obtained in the vicinity of Namoa; two vessels had loaded there, and the supply exceeded by far the present demand. Mr. Tait, of the firm of Tait and Co., has been at Namoa for some time collecting coolies, and was there when we called at that station. I apprehend that if coolies are so plentiful and so easily obtained at Namoa, that place will be visited by other merchants, and in that case we must not be surprised if we hear of disturbances before long, especially if the same

system of brokers, barracoons, and competition, as carried on at Amoy, becomes in full force at Namoa. The fact of such a trade being carried on at a port unrecognised by Treaty, is not more singular than the connivance and assistance which, I am informed, the local authorities lend to it. This state of affairs becomes, however, a subject for deep consideration, if not anxiety, for all parties; for, with a turbulent, grasping, and covetous set of men like those employed at Amoy as coolie-brokers, I am afraid that before long we shall hear of some catastrophe at Namoa.

We left Namoa after a short stay, and arrived at Hong Kong the next morning, the 21st instant.

Having thus given to your Excellency, as briefly as I could, a sketch of my proceedings, which I trust will meet with your approval and that of Her Majesty's Government, it only remains for me to express the high sense which I entertain of the ability, judgment, and highmindedness exhibited by Commander Fishbourne during the whole of our toilsome and not very agreeable task. I am thus particular in expressing my opinion of the high moral tone and honesty of purpose displayed throughout by that officer, not because such praise coming from me can possibly be of any benefit to him, but because there have not been wanting false reports and rumours, and even declarations in our presence, as to the one-sidedness of our inquiry; reports which even went the length of stating that we proceeded to Amoy with biassed minds, and with the full determination of exhibiting the coolie-trade in its worst possible light. In refutation of such a charge, I would merely refer your Excellency to the inclosed minutes. Commander Fishbourne and myself are perfectly ready and willing to abide by its contents and to be judged by its merits; and I am satisfied that no unprejudiced person will rise from the perusal of this evidence without having formed a favourable opinion of our motives, and of the manner in which the inquiry had been conducted, and glad, for the sake of our good name in China, that such an inquiry has actually taken place.

Allow me, in conclusion, to bring to your Excellency's particular notice, in order that you may communicate with Captain Massie, the senior naval officer on this station, the zealous and willing services rendered during the proceedings in court by Mr. T. J. Ley, passed clerk on board Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Hermes." Mr. Ley attended at the Consulate, and rendered every assistance in his power on all occasions, but particularly in taking down one copy of the whole of this voluminous evidence, which copy has been left with Mr. Backhouse, whose establishment, as your Excellency knows, was in a state of great inefficiency, Mr. Backhouse himself not being at all well, Mr. Sinclair having only been one week in the place, and Mr. Pedder absent on sick leave at Hong Kong. Under these circumstances I need not add that Mr. Ley's services were very acceptable, and I am happy in having this opportunity of bearing testimony to the cheerful alacrity with which they were placed at our disposal.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FREDERICK HARVEY.

Inclosure 8 in No. 14.

Minutes of Evidence taken at a Court of Inquiry held at Amoy to investigate the Causes of the late Riots, and into the manner in which Coolie Emigration has been lately carried on at that Port.

Depositions taken during an investigation held at Her Britannic Majesty's Consulate at Amoy, into the causes of the riotous proceedings which took place at that port on the 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th of November, 1852.

Monday, December 13, 1852.

PRESENT:

John Backhouse, Esq., Her Majesty's Officiating Consul.
Frederick Harvey, Esq., Secretary to Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary in China.
Commander E. Gardiner Fishbourne, R.N., Commanding Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Hermes."

The *Rev. William Chalmers Burns*, British subject, missionary in China, called in, and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. You have heard of the disturbances which have recently taken place on the occasion of which some lives were lost. Can you state the causes, or any of them, from which these arose?—*A.* I have heard of these disturbances, and believe that they have arisen from excitement produced in the public mind by the trade which has been for some years past, but especially during the past few months, carried on in exporting coolies. I am not aware, from my own personal knowledge, that persons have been carried away as coolies against their will, but I am fully aware of the fact that a general impression to this effect prevails among the Chinese community, and to this cause solely would I attribute the origin of the late disturbances.

Q. Do you know of any difference in the mode of obtaining coolies and of the treatment they receive during the last few years and that adopted more recently?—*A.* As to the mode of obtaining coolies, in its details, I am entirely ignorant; but in regard to the mode of treating them, I am fully aware of the fact that, while previously those engaged to go as coolies enjoyed their unrestrained liberty, I think, until the time of their embarkation, there have been established of late, both on shipboard and on shore, depôts where the coolies have lived.

Q. Do you know of any specific case where a coolie has been held in confinement contrary to his own wish or that of his friends?—*A.* I think about a fortnight before the disturbance arose, my own servant mentioned one morning to me that he had been down at the shed in front of Mr. Syme's hong, along with the relatives of a young man from his own village who wished to have him released, as, according to their statement, he had been deceived and was confined against their will, if not his own will. My servant also stated, that on going to the shed they could find no mode of communicating with the young man, and he also stated that there were the friends of several others at the same time in attendance there for like objects and with no better success. He was much affected by the circumstance, and begged of me to do what I could to have the young man released and restored to his friends.

Q. Did you adopt any means, and what, to obtain the liberty of this young man?—*A.* On the afternoon of the same day, when passing at the front of Mr. Symes' hong, I accidentally met with Mr. Cornabé, in Mr. Syme's employ, and mentioned the case to him. He said that the coolies had perfect liberty to go in or out, and also spoke to the effect that any such person on being applied for would be immediately allowed to go. On the evening of the same day I met with Mr. Wardrop, who had been here for some time as an agent in exporting coolies to Cuba, and mentioned the same case to him. His observations in regard to the case were to the effect, that he was not the proper party concerned, but that he would speak to Mr. Syme about the case, and that he thought the proper course for me to take would be simply to send a note with the young man's friends to Mr. Cornabé, with whom I had already spoken on the subject. He doubted not, if this were done, that the young man would be immediately released. The following day, accordingly, I wrote a note to Mr. Cornabé, describing the young man's name and native village, &c. This note was taken to the hong by the young man's relations, accompanied by my own servant, who was anxious to go with them. A short time after my servant returned with a note from Mr. Cornabé, mentioning that the young man had been released (for the actual terms used I can refer, if requisite, to the note still in my possession). My servant was accompanied on this occasion by the brother of the young man, who warmly thanked me for what I had done in the matter.

Q. Would you be good enough to put the note referred to in evidence, and allow your servant to be examined?—*A.* The note I believe I have, and if so will be happy to produce it. My servant I should think also will be willing to give his evidence.

Q. Do you know of any placards that would identify this coolie emigration with the disturbances, and what was the substance of them?—*A.* Several months ago I read a Government proclamation in reference to this subject to the effect that persons described as "Kheh Shaon," or in the colloquial of the hongs "Coolie Brokers," were leading away and selling poor people. The proclamation threatened such with severe punishment, and also added that local constables

who knew of such persons and yet did not give information would be held equally guilty with them. More lately, on Tuesday the 23rd November, passing through a street in the middle of the town, I found a crowd of people reading two placards put up by the people, the one of them in the name of the scholars and merchants, the other in the name either of the 18th Poo, or of the 18 Poos (the whole number comprized within Amoy.) (*Vide* Appendix, papers marked A and B.) That by the scholars and merchants was longer and more general; it made general reference to the existence of a trade in coolies (described as buying and selling men) carried on at this port for a number of years, and said that the persons thus exported had been poor people without relations, but went on to say that of late several tens of persons (natives) had joined together for the purpose of obtaining persons to be exported, that they had several hundreds in their employ who were going in all directions, using every pretext by which they might get hold of persons to suit their purpose; that these persons thus obtained were the members of families in the community (not as before, friendless persons); and that they were shut up so that they could have no communication, even by speech; that they were afterwards carried to foreign countries and there subjected to toil only ended by their death. The placard then strongly warned the people against being imposed upon by such persons. The other placard, which was of a more violent character, was shorter, and was to the effect that the persons issuing it had resolved, in consequence of this trade in coolies, and especially because the coolie broker, who had been arrested on the 21st November, had been again released, that they would not buy and sell with the hongs of Syme, Muir and Co., and Tait and Co., and that if persons among themselves should trade with these hongs their houses would be pulled down, their goods plundered and their lives taken. The placard ended by saying that if the above-mentioned coolie broker was given up to their authorities to be punished, they would then be willing to deal with the said hongs as before. These placards have been generally posted up throughout the town.

Q. What hour was it that you read these placards?—*A.* I should think about 4 o'clock P.M.

(Signed) WM. C. BURNS.

Wu-tsang, servant to the Rev. Mr. Burns (native of a village in the Island of Amoy), called in, and being duly sworn, through Mr. Burns, also duly sworn as interpreter, is examined:

Q. You went to the shed of Messrs. Syme, Muir, and Co., together with the brother of the young man said to be detained there. Was he really in confinement?—*A.* I went to get the young man out. The first time I went with the brother of this young man we went to the door leading into the shed, and spoke to the Chinese there, with the view of seeing this young man and of getting him out; but we were not allowed to go in, and we were not allowed to see him. The man at the door said that we could not get in. Afterwards, when I got my note to Mr. Cornabé, I went, and Mr. Cornabé took me and the brother of the young man into the inner part of the shed, where the men were kept, and took the young man out.

Q. In what kind of place, and in what state did you find the young man?—*A.* The place was a very bad place; the men had nothing but the damp ground, with mats spread upon it, to lie upon. They were all found with trousers, but otherwise naked, and I believe that they had no other clothes to put on. They could not go out if they wished.

Q. Did the young man state that he was in confinement, and express a wish to be released?—*A.* This young man told me that he was deceived, and that, from the distress of being thus confined, he still more wished to be released.

Q. Did he state the kind of deception that had been practised on him?—*A.* The man was deceived by promises of work. The person who thus deceived him brought him to Amoy and made him over to the coolie broker at the hong.

Q. Did he give you to understand that they were under a contract to give him so much money, and that he was to work for a given period; or was any contract at all spoken of?—*A.* If there was anything of this kind, he did not tell me of it.

Q. Are you positive that they were not free to go in and out as they pleased?—*A.* Certainly; they could go in, but they could not come out.

Q. When did these circumstances occur?—*A.* It is fully more than a month ago, but I cannot recollect the precise day; but I am sure that it was about the end of the 9th Chinese month.

Q. Have you any knowledge of the cause of the late disturbances?—*A.* It was owing to the "Kheh Shaon" deceiving the people; some were willing to go abroad as coolies, and some were not.

Q. You say that some were willing to go, and some were not. Do you mean to say that some were sent away unwillingly?—*A.* With regard to the people generally I cannot speak with certainty; I can only speak positively of the case with which I was connected.

Q. Did you ever hear of the escape of some coolies from the boats in which they were being embarked?—I did; I understand that they forced the boatmen to go close to the shore, so that they might land.

Q. Did you know any of them?—*A.* I did not.

(Signed) WU-TSANG.
(In Chinese character.)

Dr. Young, British subject, missionary in China, called in, and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. The Rev. Mr. Burns states that you had interested yourself in the case of a young man about to be embarked as a coolie; state what you did in the case?—*A.* My Chinese teacher stated to me one morning that he had a female relative from the country making application to him for the release of a nephew from the coolie ship. She had been to the vessel, and had obtained information from the man in charge that her relative would be set free if an order from Mr. Tait was given to him to that effect. All that my teacher requested me to do in the case was to speak to Mr. Tait on the subject, which I did, taking my teacher with me. I saw Mr. Connolly, Mr. Tait's partner; he at once said that there would be no difficulty, and that he would give orders respecting him to the man in charge. Mr. Connolly gave my teacher his card, and told him to come back to the office the next morning, when one of the clerks would visit the ship. My teacher went accordingly the next morning, and proceeded to the ship along with Mr. Tait's clerk. He came to me with his relative about 12 o'clock in the day.

This young man stated that some men told him to come to Amoy, and thence to proceed to Mr. Tait's with some potatoes which he was selling, which he did. While waiting at Mr. Tait's he said a Chinese broker suggested that he should go with him on board the "Emigrant" coolie depôt, and that he would give him wages for working on board his ship. He went with him, and he was there for some eight days without doing any work, at which time there was a draught of coolies from the "Emigrant" coolie depôt to a ship lying outside, taking in a cargo of coolies. He was requested by the broker to go along with him, and he went. After being there for some time, he found out that it was intended to send him away with the coolies; he thereupon got a man to write a letter to his friends, which information was the cause of his female relative coming to Amoy to prefer the request previously mentioned.

(Signed) J. H. YOUNG.

Francis Darby Syme, British merchant, established at Amoy, called in, and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. It has been stated that the late disturbances which took place here arose out of the coolie emigration. Will you state what took place on the occasion of your visit to the police-station relative to a coolie-broker?—*A.* On Sunday evening the 21st of November last I had information that one of my brokers had been seized and was detained at a small police-station near our own house. As I had received similar information on previous occasions, and had been deceived, I determined to go there to ascertain whether the party seized was, as he was stated to be, my own servant or not, for the purpose of making an official complaint the succeeding day to the Consul. I was accompanied by Mr. William Cornabé, an assistant in my office, to act as interpreter, and two Chinese coolies, each carrying a lantern with the name of the hong in Chinese characters written

on it. When we got to the police-station the police-officer himself was not there, but an inferior officer was busily employed in superintending the infliction of corporal punishment on a man who was tied to a pole hand and foot. He stopped the proceedings when we arrived, and then inquired, as far as I could understand, the object of our visit. We told him that we came with the intention of ascertaining whether one of the men belonging to the Hoke (Syme, Muir, and Co.'s hong) Hong was then being detained. He asked whether the man then under punishment was the party inquired for. Both Mr. Cornabé and myself were unable to recognize the man as being one of our servants, his features being disfigured by the treatment which he had received. We applied to the two servants who accompanied us to see whether they knew the man, but they seemed so frightened that they refused to give us any answer. About this time the police officer in charge repeatedly said, "This is not your man; he is a bad man." Mr. Cornabé then inquired what the man had been guilty of? The answer was that he had been going about the streets with a knife. I then suggested that it would be as well to inquire of the man himself whether he really belonged to the Hoke Hong, and he said not, but that he belonged to a foreign hong, with a garden in front of it. About this time a Chinaman speaking Malay came up with others, and said, amidst a good deal which I could not understand, that he was not the man we were in search of, but a bad man. I then asked Mr. Cornabé to ask of the man himself what his name was, so as to obtain in that way some kind of clue to the man's identity. He replied that his name was Hwan, which name answered to him we were in search of. I asked the police officer whether he had anybody else in custody. He said, "No man but that man, and he is not your man, but a bad man." After this, seeing we could do no good, we left the police station as quietly and peaceably as we had entered it. When I had arrived about half way home, I met one of my Chinese servants, who stated that the police-officer had imposed upon us, and that the man was really the broker we were in search of, and offered to accompany us back again to identify the man, which we did; and on arriving at the door of the outer court we found the man in the hands of the rabble, who had him on the ground, and were maltreating him. I stooped down for the purpose of looking at the man's face, and I received a blow on the right shoulder. I then struck the man who held the tail of the man who was being beaten with a slight cane which I was then carrying in my hand. After that I cannot speak to particulars, having been knocked down three times. I endeavoured to find my way home, but not being able to do so, took refuge in the Shroff's house. A quarter of an hour after the gentleman living in my house came down to the Shroff's house to seek for me.

Q. Were you cognizant of any riots, or disposition to riot, on Tuesday the 23rd ultimo?—*A.* A number of people collected on the road in front of the hongs with an evident intention of assaulting any foreigner that might pass. A German gentleman, Mr. Menfing, who is living with us, and myself, when standing quietly at the door, were stoned and brickbatted; also a gentleman living with Mr. Helms, next door. Such was the excitement of the people that when I was speaking to Lieutenant Smith and Mr. Hooper, I advised them not to go from my house to Mr. Jackson's through the mob, as they would probably be stoned. They passed through safely enough in going, but coming back I believe they were both stoned. The mob then dispersed when it became dark. On Wednesday morning, the 24th, the crowd began at an early hour, shortly after the guard was withdrawn, all being quiet previously, to assemble both in front and at the back of our hongs. I wrote off to Captain Ellman, stating that our hong was then besieged by the rabble, that I had no means of protecting it, and requesting that assistance might be sent from the ship to defend it. Lieutenant Smith then landed with a party of marines and sailors, some of whom he quartered in our house. Being at breakfast Lieutenant Smith came and told me that the rabble were breaking into my outhouses, and asked me to come out and look at it. He sent marines down to guard the doors, and ordered part of the men to remain in front of the outhouses. These men were pelted by the rabble with stones, bricks, &c., and in order to clear the lane he led the men through the house to the rear of the mob. He partially dispersed it on the way down without any firing having taken place. The mob had then congregated near Mr. Jackson's hong, and were still continuing throwing brickbats, &c. I saw Lieutenant Smith, who was then standing on some stone

steps, struck twice by these missiles. The marines then fired and the mob dispersed.

Q. Did the mob, or any of them, state why they made this attack?—*A.* Not to my knowledge.

Q. Did you, or any person in your house, have any conversation with the mob, or any of them?—*A.* To the best of my knowledge and belief, not.

Q. Can you assign any reason for their having attacked your house?—*A.* Nothing further than a desire of plundering.

Q. Was there any statement made to you, or any of your house, that the riot would cease if the coolie-broker was given up to the authorities?—*A.* It was on Tuesday evening that a Missionary, Mr. Talmage, called upon me, and stated that he had been deputed by some persons to say, that if the coolie-broker was given up the affair would then be quiet.

Q. Was this not a reasonable request, that this coolie-broker should be given up to the authorities, seeing that the mob would otherwise create a riot?—*A.* It was a reasonable request, and I was willing to comply with it on application being made by the authorities.

Q. What exasperated the people so much against the coolie-broker?—*A.* I have no idea.

Q. How does your answer, that the people congregated for the purposes of plunder, consist with the message brought by Mr. Talmage from the people, that they would be quiet on the delivery of the broker?—*A.* I fancy that there were two parties; those from whom Mr. Talmage came I have no knowledge of. He said that they had called upon him, and thought this would be the best mode of proceeding. The rabble who were surrounding the house, I imagine, were there for the mere purposes of plunder.

Q. Did Mr. Talmage assign any reason for the exasperation of the people he represented?—*A.* Not to the best of my recollection.

Q. Did they attack anybody else's hong besides you own?—*A.* Not to my knowledge, I not having left the house during the day.

Q. You said that they were congregated towards Mr. Jackson's; was it for the purpose of attacking it?—*A.* I have no idea.

Q. It has been stated in evidence that a young man was induced to enter your shed, and was not again permitted to leave it; on his brother making application to see him, he was not allowed; but that finally, on Mr. Burns writing a note to Mr. Cornabé, he obtained his release. Do you know anything connected with the circumstance of his confinement and release?—*A.* I know nothing of his confinement; and heard nothing of the application for the release, till through Mr. Burns.

Q. Then are you prepared to say that the coolies who were assembled in your sheds were (a month since) at liberty to go in and out at pleasure.—*A.* Yes; I consider they were, most decidedly, free agents.

Q. Will you kindly explain this note from Mr. Cornabé to Mr. Burns:

"My dear Mr. Burns,

"I've received your kind note, and in accordance have delivered over the man to his relation, who came in search of him.

"Yours truly,

(Signed) "WM. A. CORNABE."

A. I never heard of the note before, and I believe it is improperly worded; my directions, when I heard of the application of Mr. Burns to Mr. Cornabé, were to see if the man was in the shed, and to take him away immediately.

Q. What are the general circumstances under which these men are in your shed?—*A.* They come there as applicants for emigration; they are provided with food and lodgings until there is some vessel ready to take them away.

Q. Previous to embarking, do they enter into a contract?—*A.* Yes; there is a legal contract, attested before the Consul for Spain, a copy of which in Chinese is given to each emigrant. I have not shipped any to a British port for many years.

Q. By what instrumentality is the contract made known to the emigrants?—*A.* By forwarding these Chinese copies into the country and into the towns and villages, the contract containing the terms upon which they are engaged.

Q. At the time of executing this contract, are they free agents?—*A.* Yes,

perfectly; and any emigrant who does not wish to proceed on the voyage is a liberty to leave at once.

Q. How do you reconcile this degree of freedom with the fact stated in the Chinese placard, that they are not free, but that they are entrapped under false pretences, placed in confinement, prevented from holding intercourse with their relatives even by speech, and, finally, carried to foreign countries without the prospect of returning?—*A.* The existence of the said placard described I was not aware of, and, as far as I am concerned, I can safely say there was no detention or anything of the kind ever came to my knowledge, and that if any intending emigrant ever expressed any unwillingness to me to go abroad, on his representing the same, which they have both time and opportunities of doing, I make a point of dismissing them.

Q. Are you aware that there was another placard, which stated that if the coolie broker, who had been arrested on the 21st and was released, was not given up to the authorities for punishment, they would not buy and sell with the hongs of Syme, Muir, and Co., and Tait and Co., and that if any among themselves should deal with them, their houses should be pulled down, their property plundered, and their lives taken?—*A.* I was not aware of the existence of this placard until after the disturbance, and then only in a very vague manner. I tried to get a copy of the placard but was unable, because the placard had been already torn down by orders of the mandarins.

Q. Do you not think that these placards, and the circumstances and the exasperation of the people against the coolie broker, are sufficient to identify the riots with the coolie emigration as lately carried on?—*A.* Not entirely; it may be partly.

Q. Are you aware that it has been stated that there was a coolie, a coolie broker, or other Chinese, taken from your hong and his throat cut?—*A.* I heard a report of the same, but the removal was not effected from my premises, neither did anything of the sort take place with parties connected with us in any respect, but I am rather inclined to disbelieve the story altogether.

Q. How do you account for the fact of your house and that of Tait and Co. being mentioned in the hostile placard?—*A.* I cannot account for it.

(Signed) F. D. SYME.

William Cornabé, British subject, assistant in the house of Syme, Muir, and Co., called in, and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. You went to the police office with Mr. Syme; will you be good enough to state shortly what took place?—*A.* I remember going up on Sunday night the 21st ultimo to the police station, to see whether it was really the man that they had stated to us to be the broker. When we got up there, we inquired of the mandarin if he was the man? He told us that he was not the broker, but quite a different person. We then quietly left, and had almost got home when we were met by a Chinaman, one of our hong-men, who told us that the mandarin had deceived us, that he was the broker in question. He further stated, that he would go up with us and identify him; consequently we went up a second time, and we found that the Court had closed and the man was in the hands of the mob, who no sooner saw us than they began to pull me by the hair and drag me on the ground, besides which I received wounds on the head and bruises about the body. I then did my best to escape, in which I succeeded with some difficulty.

Q. Can you account for the beating you received?—*A.* I cannot account for it.

Q. Is it the usual manner in which Europeans are treated at Amoy?—*A.* No.

Q. Then as it was an unusual proceeding, it must have had an unusual cause?—*A.* Yes.

Q. Why were they exasperated against the Chinese broker. It is not usual to treat brokers in that manner; and therefore I suppose there must have been some reason for the treatment he received?—*A.* There must have been something wrong in the manner of his conducting his business.

Q. Did you hear of a man having been removed from your hong and murdered?—*A.* I did not.

Q. Are the coolies now, and have they always been, at perfect liberty to go in and out of your hong?—*A.* They are, and always have been.

(Signed) WM. A. CORNABE.

Seaon Lhin, a native of Amoy, is called in for examination; and being duly sworn through Dr. Young, also duly sworn as interpreter, makes the following statement:

His relative having been to his house, said that her nephew named "It" had been deceived by certain men to carry some things to Amoy. Afterwards they again told him that the foreign ships were inviting men to do work, and said, "Will you go or not?" he answered, "I will." Then he asked them, "Will I get wages?" they said, "Yes." Then he went. He was in this ship eight days; afterwards they told him they wished him to go to another ship which was going abroad, to do work, and to return in eight months or a year. He afterwards heard on board that they would be a long time in getting home, and he thereupon got a man to write to his friends. Then his relative came to him, and he went to Dr. Young.

Q. Did you visit the ship?—*A.* Yes.

Q. Was your relative prevented from leaving the ship?—*A.* He was.

Q. Did you ever visit the place where the coolies are kept at the foreign hongs?—*A.* No.

(Signed) SEAON LHIN.
(In Chinese characters.)

Tuesday, December 14, 1852.

William Hugh Nurse, acting-mate of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Salamander," called in, and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. You were present at the disturbances that took place on the 24th ultimo?—*A.* Yes.

Q. State shortly the circumstances.—*A.* About 9 o'clock A.M., on the 24th November, I was sent with a party under Lieutenant Smith, to aid in quelling a disturbance near the premises of Messrs. Syme, Muir, and Co. Lieutenant Smith shortly after this left me with a party to disperse the mob surrounding the hong of Messrs. Tait and Co., after which he returned, by which time the mob had commenced to throw stones and brickbats; and leaving me with eight men to protect the premises of Messrs. Syme, Muir and Co., he went away with the remainder of his party by the back way, and shortly reappeared again in front from the lane adjoining Mr. Jackson's house. He then commenced an attempt to disperse the mob by beating them with muskets. Failing in his endeavours to disperse the mob, several of his men having been struck by their missiles, he had recourse to fire-arms; seeing which, and that the mob did not appear to disperse immediately, I ordered my own party to fire on those farthest from our men engaged below. I saw several Chinese fall, and the mob then dispersed.

Q. What were those men in the act of doing upon whom you fired?—*A.* Throwing stones and brickbats at Lieutenant Smith's party.

Q. By this you mean to say that you merely fired in defence of your party; is it so?—*A.* It is.

Q. Do you know what the mob were about to do: if you do not, what is your opinion?—*A.* They had plundered the outhouses in front of Mr. Syme's.

Q. What did these outhouses contain?—*A.* Different utensils for the use of coolies.

Q. In fact, these outhouses were the coolie sheds; is it not so?—*A.* Yes.

Q. Did you see any attempt made to break open the dwelling-houses and go-downs in order to plunder?—*A.* No direct attempt; stones were thrown into the rooms.

Q. Would you say that those stones were thrown with a view to break open the houses, &c., from personal hostility to the inmates?—*A.* I believe the men there assembled were intent on plunder, but still had a personal dislike to Mr. Syme.

Q. Have you been in the coolie sheds from time to time?—*A.* Yes, I have been, I think, twice.

Q. Were there coolies in them, and were they, or any of them, subject to restraint, physical or moral?—*A.* There were coolies; and I believe they were under some restraint; but of what nature I cannot say.

Q. You would say they were not free agents?—*A.* They appeared to be detained.

Q. Did you see, on any occasion, personal violence used towards these, or treated otherwise than Englishmen are entitled by law to be treated?—*A.* I did not see any actual personal violence, but they appeared to be greatly crowded.

(Signed) W. H. NURSE.

Robert Jackson, British merchant, established at Amoy, called in, and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. Were you present on the 24th, when these disturbances took place?—*A.* Yes, I was at the hong.

Q. Will you state what you saw on that occasion?—*A.* Towards the morning of the 24th, about 9 o'clock, I observed a crowd collecting between my hong and Mr. Syme's; a couple of hours later the crowd had amounted to about 1,500 men, to the best of my knowledge. A little while afterwards, the foremost of them commenced to use the brickbats at Mr. Syme's house and coolie-shed. After that, I saw a party of men from Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Salamander," in the balcony of Mr. Syme's house; the crowd seeing this, ceased for a time throwing. The guard then went in the space between the coolie-shed and Mr. Syme's house. The rabble, upon seeing this, commenced to pelt the guard; the latter were then obliged to run into the house for shelter. The brickbats were then renewed, double the quantity. About ten minutes after that, I saw the guard come through a little narrow street on the side of my hong, and attack the rabble with intent to disperse them, the rabble meantime throwing stones at the guard. This continued, I suppose, for about five minutes, during which time several were knocked down. There was then a volley fired; the rabble kept retreating, but still using their brickbats. I saw one man take up three or four brickbats, and throw them with very great violence at Mr. Smith, who was knocked down. They then continued loading and firing till they had dispersed the mob.

Q. Can you say, of your own knowledge, what was the cause of this disturbance?—*A.* To the best of my knowledge, derived from respectable persons, it originated from Mr. Syme having gone to a small military station to release a crimp of his who had been arrested by a small military Mandarin.

Q. Would you be good enough to name two or three of your informants?—*A.* The Chinese Colonel's Aide-de-Camp is one of them.

Q. Do you believe that it was the intention of the assembled rabble to plunder generally?—*A.* Their object I consider was two-fold: vengeance against the outrage (in their estimation) committed by the foreigner, and plunder.

Q. Did you know any of those amongst the rabble, and of what class were they generally composed?—*A.* I did not recognize any amongst the rabble, but there were amongst them principally Amoy people.

Q. Did they attack Captain Mc Murdo's, Captain Helms', or any other place but Syme, Muir, and Co.'s, and Tait and Co.'s; and if not, how could it be that their object was general plunder?—*A.* They did not at all appear about Captain Helms' hong, or Captain Mc Murdo's hong, or any of the other hongs, with the object of making those hongs the object of attack. The feelings of the rabble seemed to centre towards Mr. Syme's only; and therefore plunder generally could not have been their object.

Q. Did you hear any remarks by the rabble; and if so, state two or three of the most pointed?—*A.* I did not distinctly hear any remarks by the rabble; it was all tumult and uproar; I could not distinguish anything.

Q. It has been stated that the shops were shut from the 22nd until the dispersion of the mob. Can you state whether this arose from the fear of the rabble, or from any other cause?—*A.* My information on this subject is from respectable sources: I have learnt that the object for which the shops were closed during the time mentioned was with a view to exonerate this small military Mandarin from blame, in regard of the circumstances which occurred

between him and Mr. Syme; the people having, in a large body, said to be from 3,000 to 6,000, petitioned the Taoutae that this small military Mandarin should not be degraded; and that they were resolved to keep their shops closed till he was restored to his former position, and until the coolie broker, who had been released by the intervention of Mr. Syme, had been given up to the authorities.

Q. Have you seen a public proclamation, of which I will read you the substance in English? (The substance thereof is read to Mr. Jackson.)—*A.* I have; what you have read to me is the substance of it.

Q. Did you see the placard of which I will read you the substance in English? (The substance thereof is read to Mr. Jackson; *vide* Appendix, paper marked A.)—*A.* I have; what you have read to me is the substance thereof.

Q. In the placard (marked A) which I have just read to you, it states that recently persons have been going about using every pretext to obtain persons of a better description "to buy and sell," as the placard states. Do you know the difference between the modes adopted more recently for obtaining coolies and that employed in former years?—*A.* I cannot speak as to what took place formerly, not having been engaged until lately in the business. When I first began to procure coolies I got a man whom I thought conversant with the business, and requested that he would make arrangements to get me coolies.. I gave him to understand at the time that I should not receive any but those who were perfectly willing to emigrate. Some time afterwards he commenced bringing them down from the country. Whenever the captain of a ship that wanted them went over to inspect those who were brought down, being able to speak the language, I always made it a point to question them as to their willingness to go. The captain of a ship marked those who were eligible. Before, however, I got the number wanted for the first ship, several men were claimed by their friends, and I always made it a point to give them up. A week before the sailing of a vessel I issued placards all over the town, stating that these men were about leaving the place, and requesting their relations or friends to claim them if they did not wish them to go. As to the crimps getting these men from the country, I have not the slightest doubt that in some instances they have made use of false pretences to entice them to Amoy.

Q. Do you think that the evil of this employment of false pretences was corrected by your placards to the public; and that no coolie was really sent against his will?—*A.* It was prevented so far that the coolie-broker said I would not receive any but willing emigrants. The placards, copies of which I beg to hand in (*vide* Appendix, papers marked C and D), moreover had the effect of showing the people about Amoy generally, that I did not wish to resort to any but fair means for the obtaining of coolies.

Q. How do you pay your coolie broker? so much per head upon those brought down or those accepted?—*A.* Three dollars per head for those accepted for embarkation.

Q. Are they free agents after having been accepted and until the contract is signed?—*A.* They are perfectly free agents even after the contract has been signed and after they have received advances.

Q. Have you had any cases where they have run away after having signed the contract and received an advance?—*A.* I have not, as I have only had one vessel to do with.

Q. Will you have the goodness to put in a copy of your contract? (*Vide* Appendix, paper marked E.)—*A.* Herewith I deliver it.

Q. Who is responsible for the provisions and water being sufficient?—*A.* The captain is responsible.

Q. Do you recollect a circumstance of personal violence on the part of some Chinese occurring on the occasion of the "Hermes'" last visit to Amoy? Will you be good enough to state the circumstances, and the people engaged therein, if you know them?—*A.* I saw from the balcony of my house a crowd armed with sticks seizing and beating a man who had apparently run from the direction of Mr. Syme's house; on questioning them, and telling them to forbear beating him, I learnt from the coolies, lookers-on, that they were Messrs. Syme, Muir, and Co.'s crimps beating a man who had run away from their shed. Very shortly afterwards they carried him to Mr. Syme's shed.

(Signed) ROBERT JACKSON.

The Rev. J. Doty, American missionary at Amoy, called in, and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. A Chinese coolie, said to have escaped from confinement somewhere, took refuge with your servant; will you be good enough to state the particulars? —*A.* On a certain Thursday in November, previous to the 21st, the day of the outbreak, at two o'clock, just as we were sitting down to dinner at home, there was a commotion in the street, in front of my house. I went out to see what it was, and found my servant contending with a Chinaman, whom I recognized as a person whom I had frequently seen at the hong of Messrs. Syme, Muir, and Co. I directed my servant to go into the house and attend to his business, and I told the other man to go his own way, and leave the place. While we were at dinner, Mr. Cornabé, a clerk in Syme, Muir, and Co.'s, came in and inquired of me why I had apprehended and kept in confinement one of their coolie brokers. I answered that I knew nothing of their coolie brokers, and had no one in confinement; and then stated to Mr. Cornabé what had just taken place in the street. Mr. Cornabé mentioned that some person had returned to the hong, and had stated that, while their coolie broker had come down in order to obtain a coolie that had run away, I had apprehended this broker and put him in confinement. I of course denied that; then turned to my servant and inquired of him the cause of the commotion in the street. He stated that it was in consequence of a coolie having escaped from Mr. Syme's shed, and that he had taken refuge in the servants' house; and that the party he had been contending with had come to claim the release of this person, and that he and others in the house had declared that they were unwilling that he should take him away; also stating that the coolie broker after whom Mr. Cornabé was inquiring, was then sitting in the house, waiting for an opportunity to seize the coolie that had run away. Mr. Cornabé then went out, and in two or three minutes he just looked into the door and told me he had found the coolie broker. That evening I met Mr. Syme in company, when, after a desultory conversation, he asked me respecting the affair that had taken place in my street, and stated that one of his brokers had returned to his hong with his face mutilated, and stated that I had beaten him. I embraced that opportunity of stating to Mr. Syme what I then knew concerning the affair, and the cause of that coolie's attempting to escape; but unfortunately I made an erroneous statement as to the manner in which this coolie had been obtained by the coolie broker—confounding two stories in my mind; but after the interview with Mr. Syme I made inquiries of my servant, and found that the particulars of the obtaining of this coolie were as follows: He was a native of a village distant somewhere about two days' journey from Amoy, engaged in selling ground-nuts as a livelihood; that a coolie broker met him, and, expressing a warm interest in his welfare, urged him to accompany him to Amoy, where he would secure for him a more lucrative employment. That the young man, thus induced, came to Amoy, and was confined in Mr. Syme's coolie-shed, where he for the first time learnt he had been brought to Amoy to be shipped to some foreign place, and being unwilling to go, he, by means of an opening in the water-closet, let himself down into the water and mud of the river, and thus made his escape. On the occasion of the interview with Mr. Syme, this gentleman declared it to be a great piece of injustice that any one should interfere to prevent his retaking the coolie, after having fed him, perhaps, a month.

Q. Did you ever visit any of the coolie-sheds?—*A.* No, I never have.

Q. Were you present at the disturbances on the 24th?—*A.* I was at Mr. Tait's hong when this disturbance commenced.

Q. Did they attack Mr. Tait's hong?—*A.* Not when I was there.

Q. Did you see them make any attack?—*A.* The only attack I saw was on the coolie-shed of Messrs. Syme, Muir, and Co.

Q. Did you see any firing?—*A.* Yes; all the firing I saw was firing high, not effective firing.

Q. Are you of opinion that fire-arms were not used before they were necessary?—*A.* My own impression is that, even before they did, the marines were perfectly justified in firing on the people.

Q. Do you think that it was the intention of the mob to plunder?—*A.* It is my opinion; and such is the expressed opinion of respectable Chinese, that their principal object was plunder.

Q. How do you, then, account for their not attacking all the hongs?—

A. The probability is that, while the mass of the rabble carried their attack on Messrs. Syme, Muir, and Co.'s, it was because of their being more ired against that hong than against any other; and if that hong had been plundered, I have no doubt the others would have met with the same fate.

Q. Can you say what was the cause of the riot?—*A.* No, I cannot.

Q. Do you think the friendly relations between the English and the Chinese at Amoy have been injured by the modes lately adopted in obtaining coolies?—*A.* Judging from the reports of respectable Chinese from various quarters, stating the unfair manner in which some coolies, in certain instances, have been decoyed down to Amoy, and then placed in confinement, I think that injury is done to the friendly relations that ought to exist; and in my opinion it will take a long period of friendly and honest dealings to re-establish the amicable relations which have hitherto existed between the Chinese and the English.

(Signed) J. DOTY.

Acting-Lieutenant H. Smith, of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Salamander," called in, and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. Is that your name and handwriting (referring to a letter of the 25th ultimo, to the address of Commander Ellman), and are the contents of it true? (*Vide* Appendix, paper marked F.)—*A.* Yes.

Q. Did these rioters attack main building and hongs where the property is lodged, as well as the outhouses, with a view to plunder?—*A.* They did not offer to enter the house.

Q. Would you say then that their throwing stones and brickbats at the dwelling-house arose from hostility to the inmates or some of them?—*A.* Yes.

Q. Can you form any idea as to what was their object in attacking the outhouses instead of the go-downs in which the valuable property was placed?—*A.* Because the outhouses were not protected at the time.

Q. Was it your opinion that the sole object of the attack was for plunder?—*A.* Yes, for plunder.

Q. Did they attack Mr. Tait's, Captain Mc Murdo's, Captain Helm's, and Mr. Jackson's hongs?—*A.* No.

Q. And yet there was property in these hongs. How can you then reconcile the fact of their not attacking these houses while there was plunder to be had, if their sole object was plunder?—*A.* I can give no reason.

Q. Perhaps you will be able to give your reasons for thinking that their object was plunder?—*A.* I can give no reason.

Q. Do you not think it reasonable to suppose that if their sole object was plunder, they would have attacked those houses that were undefended first, whatever they might have done afterwards?—*A.* I think they seemed determined to attack Mr. Syme's hong first, also to take Mr. Syme. I had a Chinese interpreter with me the night before the 23rd, when the mob was collected, and he told me it was the wish of the mob to make a rush at the house and to take Mr. Syme out of it; others said, "No, let him come out of his own accord."

Q. Have you ever been in any of the coolie sheds?—*A.* I have been on several occasions into Mr. Syme's coolie shed.

Q. Were there coolies in the shed?—*A.* There were Chinese in the shed.

Q. Were they under restraint or free to go in and out?—*A.* Under no restraint at all.

Q. Are you prepared to say that there was no coolie broker who would have prevented them from going out had they attempted to do so?—*A.* I am not prepared to say.

Q. Then are you prepared to say that there was no one, at the time of your visits, that was under a moral or physical restraint?—*A.* I am not prepared to say.

Q. Might there have been, or not, many under such circumstances?—*A.* Not many; I may add here that I speak only of the period from the 21st ultimo.

Q. Did you ever see any instance of personal violence in the coolie sheds?—*A.* Yes.

Q. By whom?—*A.* By Mr. Syme.

Q. To whom?—*A.* To a Chinaman.

Q. Will you state the circumstances as far as you know them?—*A.* One night, after the disturbance, there was a row in one of the coolie sheds. I went over with the guard to the shed. I went inside myself and saw Mr. Syme come into the shed, and he pointed out to me one man of a very bad character; and I

saw him try to turn the man out by striking him with a stick, and it is the only instance I ever saw.

Q. Did he drive him out?—*A.* Yes, he did.

Q. Did he inflict any injury or bruises on him?—*A.* No.

Q. It was reported that a man was rescued from one of the hongs, and that his throat was cut, and that you saw the man previously to his throat being cut?—*A.* Yes, I saw him.

Q. Were they beating him?—*A.* Not at the time, but he was a prisoner in the hands of the mob.

Q. Did you learn what he was, whether a coolie-broker or not.—*A.* No, I did not learn.

Q. It is stated by the mandarins that though the mob did attack Mr. Syme's outhouses for the purpose of releasing the coolies, that they did not throw brickbats till they had been fired upon; is it so?—*A.* No, certainly not. I was stoned even the day before.

Q. On the 24th, when the rabble attacked the outhouses and took away the property from thence, did the coolies leave the sheds?—*A.* There were no coolies in the shed that morning that I saw. If there had been any previously they left with the mob that broke down the outhouses.

Q. Were there any coolies in the sheds the night before?—*A.* There were some Chinamen in the sheds.

(Signed) C. H. SMITH,
Acting Lieutenant.

Joseph Purkis, gunner of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Salamander," called in, and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. What day did you come on shore for the first time?—*A.* On Sunday evening, the 21st ultimo.

Q. Was there any conflict on that day, or Monday, or Tuesday?—*A.* Not until Wednesday.

Q. Did you fire immediately on landing?—*A.* Not until after being attacked, and most of the party had been struck. I was not present when the firing commenced, as I was washing the blood from my face in Mr. Syme's house, having been wounded by a brickbat.

Q. What was, in your opinion, the object of their attack?—*A.* Plundering the coolie sheds.

Q. Was it for the value of the plunder, or from hostility to the sheds?—*A.* Hostility to the sheds.

Q. Did they show any disposition to attack the hongs for the sake of plunder?—I do not know what they might have done ultimately, if they had not been checked, as they were closing on the hongs.

Q. Did you visit the sheds the night before, and were there coolies in it?—*A.* I did not visit the interior of it, but there were Chinese in it other than servants; they made a great noise.

Q. Did you ever, previous to the riot, visit the sheds?—*A.* No.

Q. Did you visit them during the riot?—*A.* Yes, ten minutes before the firing.

Q. Were there any Chinese in the building after the mob were dispersed?—*A.* No, only the servants of the house.

Q. In what number?—*A.* About twenty.

Q. Then either the mob liberated the people that were in it, or the people availed themselves of the opportunity during the riot to go out.—*A.* Yes, that must have been it.

Q. Did they attack any other hong but Mr. Syme's?—*A.* Not to my knowledge.

Q. How do you account for that?—*A.* Their enmity was directed to a coolie-broker supposed to be in Mr. Syme's house, but he was removed by the mandarins previous to the throwing of brickbats and firing.

Q. Would you then say that the sole object of these people could not have been plunder?—*A.* No, the origin could not; it was only the blackguard part of the mob that were plundering.

(Signed) JOSEPH PURKIS.

James Humphrey Singleton Hooper, clerk of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Salamander," called in, and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. You were present at a disturbance which took place at Amoy on the 23rd; will you state briefly what you know on the subject?—*A.* Between 4 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the 23rd, I was standing outside of Mr. Syme's hong, talking with Mr. Syme and Mr. Menfing, who were then being pelted by the mob assembled between Mr. Syme's and Mr. Jackson's hongs, when Acting-Lieutenant Smith came up and asked me what was the matter; there being at the time a large crowd assembled between Mr. Jackson's hong and Mr. Syme's. I informed him that the mob had been pelting Mr. Syme and Mr. Menfing. Mr. McMurdo was also present, and said he would go over to his hong to see what was going on there. He passed through quietly. Lieutenant Smith then said to me, "Will you go over with me, as I wish to see if the captain has returned from the Consulate, and to know if the ladies wish any assistance." I said, "Certainly;" and we went together. On our return, which was about ten minutes afterwards, and when we were about two-thirds of the way over, we were stoned by the mob on Mr. Jackson's wharf; one stone striking me on the neck, and a brickbat striking me on the right shoulder-blade. On seeing one of the mob throwing a stone at Mr. Syme's windows, I seized him by the neck, and immediately drawing my sword, I was in the act of using it, when Lieutenant Smith peremptorily ordered me to desist, which I immediately obeyed, and returned into Mr. Syme's hong quietly.

Q. Will you state the circumstances attending the commencement of the attack upon Mr. Syme and Mr. Menfing?—*A.* My first observation of the attack upon them was from Mr. Helm's verandah. They at the same time were amusing themselves with some ponies in front of the hongs, and on hearing a great cry or yell, I ran down and asked what was the matter. Mr. Syme said, "You see what is the matter." The mob were then pelting them and Mr. Cornabé, who had, I believe, by that time joined them.

Q. Were they all three indiscriminately the object of attack?—*A.* I do not know.

Q. Were you present at the disturbance on the 24th?—*A.* No.

Q. Have you ever been in any of the coolie sheds belonging to the merchants, and whose?—*A.* I have; Mr. Syme's.

Q. Previous to the disturbance?—*A.* Yes.

Q. Were there coolies in the shed?—*A.* Yes.

Q. Were they under any restraint, physical or moral?—*A.* In my opinion, no, as I am myself aware that there are three or four outlets by which I have seen the coolies going in and out, and my impression is whenever they pleased.

Q. Are you prepared to say that you never saw any of them locked up?—*A.* I am.

Q. Are you prepared to say that there were no coolie-brokers walking round the inclosure who would have prevented some of the coolies leaving if they had attempted to do so?—*A.* I am not prepared to say.

Q. Did you ever see personal violence used towards any Chinese in these coolie sheds?—*A.* I have on one occasion only.

Q. State the circumstance.—*A.* One evening I heard a disturbance in the shed opposite Mr. Syme's hong. I went in with Mr. Helms to see what was the matter, and I found Mr. Syme having hold of a coolie man by his Chinese jacket, and although I did not see the blow myself, yet from the appearance of the coolie whom he was holding at the time, whose mouth was bleeding, he evidently must have struck him; and on asking Mr. Syme why this violence was used towards this coolie, he told me that he had been hanging about his hong for the last three or four months, being fed by him, but on going on board the ships he turned out such a great blackguard that the captains had been glad in every instance to get rid of him, and that only a few hours before he had been turned on shore from one of the emigrant ships about to sail, and that the reason of his attack was that he had found him gambling in his shed; where he had strictly forbidden his entrance.

Q. What did he strike him with?—*A.* I do not know.

Q. Had he a stick in his hand?—*A.* He had.

Q. Do you not say it was not with that?—*A.* I could not say.

Q. Were there many coolies in the sheds previous to the disturbances when

you visited them; and can you state the probable number?—*A.* I have visited the sheds three or four times previous to the disturbances of the 24th, and I should say as near as I can remember from 70 to 100 generally.

Q. You say that you caught a man in the act of throwing a brickbat at Mr. Syme's windows. Does this lead you to suppose that there was a personal hostility to him or some of his firm?—*A.* Yes.

(Signed) JAMES S. HOOPER.

David Ormond West, Assistant-Surgeon of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Salamander," called in, and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. You were present on the occasion of the riots on the 24th?—*A.* I was.

Q. Did you see any of your party struck?—*A.* I saw Corporal Gravenor struck by the first stone I saw thrown.

Q. How many of your people were struck before they fired?—*A.* I cannot tell; but I should imagine from the number of stones thrown, the greater number of them were struck. It must have been.

Q. Are you prepared to say that the party did not fire previous to the stones being thrown at them?—*A.* They did not fire until long after stones had been thrown.

Q. When they did fire, was it at the people or over them?—*A.* Decidedly at the people.

Q. Did you visit the coolie sheds previous to the disturbances?—*A.* No.

Q. Did you do so subsequently to the disturbances?—*A.* I did, but found them empty, excepting house-servants.

Q. From which you would be led to suppose, that if there had been inmates, they took advantage of the disturbance to escape, and that therefore they were not voluntary inmates?—*A.* They did escape; but I cannot say whether they were voluntary or otherwise.

Q. Did they attack anything but the sheds?—*A.* Yes, the hong.

Q. For plunder?—*A.* Yes.

Q. Which did they attack first?—*A.* The outhouse.

Q. Was it for the value of the plunder that they attacked the outhouse?—*A.* Yes; which would lead me to suppose that they would have attacked the house for greater plunder.

Q. How is it they only attacked Mr. Syme's hong, when they could have attacked the other hongs quite as well?—*A.* The only way I can account for it is, that the popular feeling seemed to be directed against that hong, and naturally I would suppose the mob would commence their attack there.

Q. Do you think the original gathering of the mob was for the sake solely of plunder?—*A.* No, certainly not.

Q. Will you state, as far as you know, the reasons of their assembling?—*A.* To obtain the delivery of a coolie-broker, the prominent in which object appeared to be a superior description of people. On the delivery of the coolie-broker to the mandarins, a mob at the front of the hong, of a different and of the lowest description, assembled and commenced throwing stones.

Q. Then you think from that that the people wished to resent the manner in which coolies had been obtained?—*A.* I think so.

(Signed) D. O. WEST,
Assistant Surgeon.

Wednesday, December 15, 1852.

Thomas Harvey Fraser, master of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Hermes," called in, and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. Is this a ground plan of Messrs. Syme, Muir, and Co.'s coolie shed (referring to a plan prepared by Mr. Fraser)? (Vide Appendix, paper marked G.)—*A.* Yes; a rough ground plan, but generally accurate.

Q. How many doors are there opened to the public thoroughfare?—*A.* Three to the public thoroughfare, but only one open from where the coolies are collected to a common house thoroughfare.

Q. Therefore you would say that a man at the opened door, and that another at the other door if that were opened, would be sufficient to prevent any of the coolies that were so disposed from going out?—*A.* Yes, I would say so. Two would be sufficient to restrain individuals going out, but not sufficient to prevent a combined attempt to escape.

(Signed) THOS. H. FRASER.

James Harvey, chief engineer of Her Majesty's sloop "Hermes," called in and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. Is this a rough sketch of Messrs. Syme, Muir, & Co.'s coolie shed (referring to the sketch prepared by Mr. Fraser)?—*A.* Yes.

Q. How many doors did you find opening from where the coolies are collected together?—*A.* Two.

Q. How many sentries or coolie brokers would be required to prevent free egress of the coolies?—*A.* Two would be sufficient.

Q. Would it be easy for a small number to prevent a large number from escaping?—*A.* A small number could easily do so.

Q. Did you visit it previous to this?—*A.* Yes, when Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Hermes" was here before.

Q. Did you find the compartments different to what they are now?—*A.* To the best of my recollection, in the central space there was a square divided off by bamboo posts, to which there was no door, and the only means of ingress or egress would be only effected by the removal of these posts.

Q. Is it your opinion that the coolies or some of them were in confinement there?—*A.* Yes, I am strongly of that opinion.

(Signed) JAMES HARVEY.

Alexander Crago Yule, Acting-Paymaster of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Salamander," called in, and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. Have you any knowledge of personal violence being used by any British subject to Chinese at Amoy, and if so be good enough to state the fact?—*A.* I have not witnessed any violence on the Chinese, but I have seen a man bleeding from the mouth at Mr. Syme's coolie sheds, and I saw Mr. Syme standing by him.

Q. Do you think it probable that it could have been any other person but Mr. Syme who could have done it?—*A.* I say certainly not. I have no reason to suppose that any one else could have done so.

Q. Had Mr. Syme a stick in his hand?—*A.* Yes.

Q. Is it your opinion that the blow was inflicted by that stick?—*A.* I cannot say.

(Signed) A. C. YULE.

Sanhee, Chinese linguist to the Amoy Consulate, called in, and being duly sworn through Mr. Sinclair, also duly sworn as interpreter, is examined:

Q. Do you know Le Tsai, the coolie broker now before you? (Referring to a man in court.)—*A.* Yes, I saw him keeping the doors to prevent coolies coming from the shed of Messrs. Syme, Muir, & Co., on the 14th instant.

*Le Tsai,** a native of the Island of Amoy, called in, and being duly sworn through Mr. Sinclair, also duly sworn as interpreter, is examined:

Q. Who are you employed by?—*A.* Messrs. Syme, Muir, and Co.

Q. Did you ever stop or prevent anybody from going out of Mr. Syme's shed?—*A.* I am only cook to Mr. Syme's shed coolies.

Q. What did you come to the coolies' witnesses, now in the Consulate, for?—The witness in answer to this question stated at first that he had been sent to the Consulate by a cook from Mr. Syme's shed, to entice the coolies'

* Le Tsai, a Coolie broker, having been recognized by the people whilst walking in front of the Consulate, was being beaten by them, when he was rescued by the Consulate servants, brought in and examined.

witnesses now in the Consulate, to go into the country, but having now denied this statement, he is dismissed without further interrogation.

Charles A. Sinclair, Interpreter to the Amoy Consulate, called in, and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. Do you identify these as the men you brought up from Mr. Syme's sheds (Referring to six Chinese in court)?—*A.* I believe them to be the same.

Q. Were they in confinement?—*A.* I cannot say they were; but on questioning them they said that they were there against their will, and wished to come out.

Chin Po, a native of the province of Fuhkien (one of the six brought by Mr. Sinclair from Mr. Syme's sheds), called in, and being duly sworn through Mr. Sinclair, also duly sworn as interpreter, is examined:

Q. Were you confined against your will in Mr. Syme's sheds?—*A.* Yes, I was, and was not allowed to come out.

Q. For how long were you confined?—*A.* Sixteen days.

Q. Were you allowed to see your friends?—*A.* I have no friends in Amoy.

Q. What promises were made to you?—*A.* The coolie broker deceived me by telling me that there were houses building and labour to be had.

Q. Do you wish to emigrate or go back to your native town?—*A.* I do not wish to emigrate. I wish to go home.

Q. How were you prevented from going out of the sheds?—*A.* The doors were bolted.

Q. Did you apply to go out?—*A.* I asked but was refused, and on reiterating my request I was beaten.

Q. Who beat you?—*A.* The doorkeeper and a coolie broker.

Q. Did any Englishmen beat you?—*A.* No.

Shaqn Tung Keung, a native of the Island of Amoy (one of the six brought by Mr. Sinclair from Mr. Syme's sheds), called in, and being duly sworn through Mr. Sinclair, also duly sworn as interpreter, is examined:

Q. Were you prevented from leaving Mr. Syme's sheds?—*A.* I was prevented from coming out.

Q. How were you prevented?—*A.* The doors were closed, and when I wrote letters to my relations I was not allowed to send them.

Q. Have you been beaten?—*A.* I have; I was stripped of my good clothes, and when I asked for them I was beaten by the coolie broker.

Q. What is the name of the coolie broker?—*A.* Chin Kee, and the coolie broker Le Tsai, who has just gone out, was the doorkeeper at the sheds.

Q. Were you beaten by an Englishman?—*A.* No.

Q. Did you wish to go home or to emigrate?—*A.* I have relations at home. I wish to go back to them.

Q. What has become of your clothes?—*A.* They are still in the hands of the coolie broker, and consist of five pieces and a pair of shoes.

Q. What promises did they make to you?—*A.* I was offered work; I asked what sort of work, and was told that I should know on arrival at Amoy, when I was pushed into Mr. Syme's sheds and the door closed.

Chin Choo She, a native of the province of Fuhkien (one of the six brought by Mr. Sinclair from Mr. Syme's sheds), called in, and being duly sworn through Mr. Sinclair, also duly sworn as interpreter, is examined:

Q. Were you confined in Mr. Syme's sheds?—*A.* Yes, and was not allowed to come out.

Q. Did you ask to come out?—*A.* I did, but the broker refused, saying that he had paid me money and I belonged to him.

Q. Did the broker pay you money, and how much?—*A.* The money was not paid to me; it was paid to the man who induced me to come down to

Amoy, who promised me, I being a shoemaker, to give me work at shoe-making.

Q. Did you ever receive any personal violence?—*A.* No beating and no ill-treatment of any kind.

Q. Do you wish to emigrate, or go home?—*A.* I wish to go back home to my work.

Chin Gan, a native of Fuhkien province (one of the six brought by Mr. Sinclair from Mr. Syme's sheds), called in, and being duly sworn through Mr. Sinclair, also duly sworn as interpreter, is examined:

Q. Were you confined in Mr. Syme's sheds?—*A.* Yes; I was not allowed to come out.

Q. Did you express a wish to come out?—*A.* I did not ask, but on trying to go out I was forced in again by blows.

Q. Who beat you?—*A.* The door-keeper.

Q. Do you know his name?—*A.* I know the man, but not his name.

Q. Did you see him to-day?—*A.* I saw him to-day.

Q. Did you speak to him?—*A.* No, nor any of my party.

Q. What promises did they make to you?—*A.* The coolie broker told me there was a situation at four dollars per month in English employ.

Q. How did you come into Mr. Syme's hong?—*A.* The broker told me that he had to sweep the floor, and when he got me near the entrance of the coolie compound I was pushed in.

Q. Have you received any money?—*A.* No, I have not.

Q. Do you wish to emigrate, or to go home?—*A.* My mother is above seventy years of age, and I wish to go back home.

Q. Were you ever beaten?—*A.* In the beginning, being reluctant to stay in, I was beaten.

Sen Shan, a native of Fuhkien (one of the six brought by Mr. Sinclair from Mr. Syme's sheds), called in, and being duly sworn through Mr. Sinclair, also duly sworn as interpreter, is examined:

Q. Were you in confinement in Mr. Syme's sheds?—*A.* Yes, I was, and not allowed to come out, and was beaten when endeavouring to do so.

Q. Did you receive any money?—*A.* No.

Q. How did you come to be in Mr. Syme's sheds?—*A.* I was promised work in a boot-shop with inducement of gain, and on coming here I was pushed into Mr. Syme's sheds.

Q. Do you wish to emigrate, or to go home?—*A.* I am here against my will, and naturally want to go home to my father and mother. I was deceived and taken in.

Q. Who beat you?—*A.* The coolie broker, with a bamboo, on the thigh, because I got restless and impatient at being so long confined.

Chang Fang, a native of the Island of Amoy (one of the six brought by Mr. Sinclair from Mr. Syme's sheds), called in, and being duly sworn through Mr. Sinclair, also duly sworn as interpreter, is examined:

Q. How did you lose your tail, and where?*—*A.* From disease; it was cut off when my head was shaved, and the hair has not yet grown.

Q. Were you confined in Mr. Syme's sheds?—*A.* I was confined and not allowed to come out by a man named Kee, a coolie broker.

Q. Did you receive any money?—*A.* No.

Q. Did they say why they would not allow you to come out?—*A.* They gave me no reason, but would not allow me to do so, being intended to be sent to foreign countries.

Q. What promises did they make to you?—*A.* No promises but those of work and trade.

Q. How came you to be in Syme's sheds?—*A.* I was promised work at Amoy, and on arriving at Syme's hong I was pushed into the coolie sheds by three men, who told me that if I refused to go in they would beat me.

* This witness was found to have no tail.

Q. Do you wish to emigrate, or to go home?—*A.* No; my mother being aged, I want to go home.

Mr. Sinclair's evidence continued.

Q. Did you bring the seven witnesses now present and just sworn from the emigrant depôt of Messrs. Tait and Co.?—*A.* Yes, I did.

Chin Sin, a native of Fuhkien province (one of the seven men brought by Mr. Sinclair from the "Emigrant" depôt), called in, and being duly sworn through Mr. Sinclair, also duly sworn as interpreter, is examined:

Q. Did you go of your own free will to the emigrant ship?—*A.* I did not go of my own free will; I was compelled to go.

Q. Who compelled you?—*A.* A coolie broker called Keen, who induced me to go with a promise of return.

Q. Did you ask to leave the emigrant ship?—*A.* No, I did not, except from the broker, who told me that since I was already on board I could not leave.

Q. Do you wish to emigrate?—*A.* No, I do not.

Q. How came you to Amoy?—*A.* I was coming to Amoy, and fell in on the road with an acquaintance of mine named Kew, who took me to a man's house named Keen, where he left me. On inquiring for him, I was told by Keen that I was sold to him and belonged to him, and could not go.

Q. Is this Keen on board the emigrant?—*A.* No; I have not seen him since the day I was sold to him.

Q. Were you in confinement on shore, and where?—*A.* Only the evening of my arrival in Keen's house till next morning, when I was shipped.

Q. Have you received any money or clothes?—*A.* I was offered 30 cash as a present (a little more than a penny), which I refused, and it was afterwards left on my bed; a Nankin jacket and a pair of Dungaree trousers were given me, but my own were thrown into the sea.

Q. What promises were made to you?—*A.* They spoke about emigrating, holding out fair promises.

Q. Have you been ill-treated on board?—*A.* No, well treated.

Seang Tsoo Sang, a native of Fuhkien (one of the seven men brought by Mr. Sinclair from the "Emigrant" depôt), called in, and being duly sworn, through Mr. Sinclair, also duly sworn as interpreter, is examined:

Q. Did you go willingly to the "Emigrant" depôt?—*A.* No, not willingly; the broker promised me work there in the shape of landing goods, at the rate of 120 cash per diem.

Q. Did you wish to leave the ship when you found you had been deceived?—*A.* I wanted to go on shore, but there was no one to ask; I could not speak to the captain, he not understanding Chinese.

Q. How many days were you there, and why did you not come on shore?—*A.* I was on board four days, and when I wanted to come on shore I was told to wait for the arrival of the broker, to go off with him.

Q. How did you come to Amoy?—*A.* The broker went to Chin Chew, and called at my house, promising me wages; and when there was no cargo to land, that I should wash the decks.

Q. Do you wish to emigrate?—No; I have a son at home, and being myself an only son, wish to go home.

Q. Have you received any money?—*A.* I left home with 400 cash, and borrowed 200 on the road from the broker; and that is the only sum I ever received.

Q. Were you in confinement on shore?—*A.* No; as soon as I arrived, I was shipped.

Q. How were you treated on board?—*A.* Well treated.

Wang ho, a native of Fuhkien province (one of the seven brought by Mr. Sinclair from the "Emigrant" depôt), called in, and being duly sworn through Mr. Sinclair, also duly sworn as interpreter, is examined:

Q. Why did you go to the "Emigrant" depôt?—*A.* I was seeking a passage

from Chin Chew to Amoy, when I met a man (a broker), who told me to come along with him; that there was labour at 120 cash per diem on board of an English ship, when I was taken on board by him.

Q. How many days were you there?—*A.* Three days.

Q. Did you ask to leave?—*A.* I was well fed and well treated; and having no work, I did, after three days, when I was told for the first time that I was to emigrate. I was prevented from going, but I did not understand what was said, and was afraid of a foreign sailor.

Q. Did you receive any money?—*A.* No.

Q. Do you wish to emigrate?—*A.* No; I have my aged parents, and am an only son.

Hung Tsaon, a native of Fuhkien province (one of the seven brought by Mr. Sinclair from the "Emigrant" depôt), called in, and being duly sworn through Mr. Sinclair, also duly sworn as interpreter, is examined:

Q. What took you to the "Emigrant" depôt?—*A.* I was coming from Chin Chew to Amoy, and met a coolie broker on the road, who promised me work at 80 cash a-day and three meals; and I then went on board.

Q. Were you well treated on board?—*A.* Yes, and enough to eat: but when I commenced to work, which I thought I was hired for, one of the sailors beat me.

Q. How many days were you on board?—*A.* Five days.

Q. Have you seen anybody else beaten on board?—*A.* No.

Q. Have you received any money?—*A.* No.

Q. Do you wish to emigrate?—*A.* I do not wish to emigrate; I have a wife at home.

Chin Kinfung, a native of Amoy Island (one of the seven brought by Mr. Sinclair from the "Emigrant" depôt), called in, and being duly sworn through Mr. Sinclair, also duly sworn as interpreter, is examined:

Q. How came you in the "Emigrant" depôt?—*A.* I came from my native place to Amoy, to inquire after a brother who is abroad. I met a man on the road (who turned out to be a coolie broker), who took me to his house for the night, and told me he would help me to find out my brother in the morning. Next morning the broker told me my brother was in a foreign country, and the best plan would be to inquire for him on board an English ship. I then went on board the "Emigrant" with the broker, who would not allow me to land when I wished to do so, on finding out that my brother was not on board.

Q. Were you well treated on board?—*A.* Yes.

Q. Do you wish to emigrate?—*A.* No, I do not wish it.

Q. How many willing emigrants were there on board?—*A.* I do not know, I never asked.

Hwang Chuen, a native of Fuhkien province (one of the seven brought by Mr. Sinclair from the "Emigrant" depôt), called in, and being duly sworn through Mr. Sinclair, also duly sworn as interpreter, is examined:

Q. How did you come on board the "Emigrant" depôt?—*A.* I came to Amoy in search of my father, and met a man whose name is Chao, a coolie broker, who told me he would help me to find him out. He took me first on board to look at the vessel, saying he would go with me afterwards on shore. I then said to the broker that I suspected I had been deceived; but the broker told me not to be alarmed, and that he would take me on shore with him; but instead of doing so, he left me on board, and saying he would look for my father. I was on board four days.

Q. Did you receive any money?—No; but food.

Q. Were you well treated?—Yes; well treated.

Q. Do you wish to emigrate?—*A.* No; I do not wish to emigrate. I have relations at home.

Hwang Peih, a native of Fuhkien province (one of the seven brought by

Mr. Sinclair from the "Emigrant" depôt), called in, and being duly sworn through Mr. Sinclair, also sworn as interpreter, is examined:

Q. How did you come on board the "Emigrant"?—*A.* I came to Amoy to inquire after my uncle, who I heard was sick. I met a man on the road who told me that if I did not find my uncle he had work to give me. On my arrival I was taken on board by the broker, who left the ship and came on shore. He is an Amoy man, whose name is Heuleen, and he lives a day's journey from hence.

Q. Were you well treated on board?—*A.* Yes. I was well treated.

Q. How many days were you on board?—*A.* Two days.

Q. Do you want to emigrate?—*A.* No; I do not.

Q. Did you receive any money?—*A.* No.

Q. On board were there willing emigrants?—*A.* I do not know.

Thursday, December 16, 1852.

John Connolly, partner in the house of Tait and Co., called in, and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. Were you present on the occasion of the assault said to have been made on Messrs. Vallancey and Walthew?—*A.* I was not present; but beg to put in an authenticated copy of the declaration of Mr. Vallancey as regards the injuries which he received on the occasion, and a medical certificate respecting the nature of his wounds. (*Vide* Appendix, papers marked H and I.)

Q. Were you present on the 24th at the disturbances?—*A.* I witnessed them from my own house.

Q. What place, or places, were attacked; and which first?—*A.* The attack was made on Mr. Syme's premises by throwing stones, and the rabble entering the coolie-sheds in front of the house and plundering the property contained therein.

Q. Are you aware at what period of the riot the "Salamander's" people were called in?—*A.* When the riot had already proceeded some lengths.

Q. At what period did the firing commence?—*A.* After the "Salamander's" men had been assaulted several times with brickbats and other missiles.

Q. Do you think it would have been safe to have deferred any longer the application for assistance from the "Salamander?"—*A.* I think not. It would not have been safe to have left the property any longer unprotected.

Q. In your opinion what would have been the consequences of the "Salamander's" men not having fired when they did?—*A.* In my opinion the rabble would have plundered Mr. Syme's house; and it is more than probable that they would then have plundered all the European hongs.

Q. Have you any reason for supposing that, in selecting Mr. Syme's hong for their first attack, they had any personal hostility to the firm, or any one of them?—*A.* Yes; I think there was such a feeling shown against Mr. Syme.

Q. Do you believe it; or have you any reason for knowing that it arose out of the manner in which the coolie emigration had been carried on by that house or any of its people?—*A.* Yes, I think so; because the rabble demanded a coolie-broker employed by the house.

Q. Are you of opinion that that riot would not have taken place if there had not been a shed with coolies in front of Mr. Symes's house?—*A.* I think not; in all probability there would have been no riot if there had been no sheds.

Q. Do you think that the lives and property in the adjacent hongs are imperilled by the existence of those sheds?—*A.* I was in fear for my property, but not for my life, on that occasion; and still think that the sheds are liable to produce a riot, which would endanger property.

Q Do you think that the discontinuance of that as a coolie-shed would tend to a more amicable relation between the people and the English, and thus save property from peril?—*A.* Yes; I am of that opinion.

Q. There were two occasions on which coolies in numbers escaped from

these sheds. Did you witness either of them?—*A.* I heard of them; but did not witness them.

Q. Were you witness to any personal violence used by any coolie-broker or Chinese in capturing any coolie running away from the sheds, or in pushing them back into them?—*A.* I was not a witness to anything of that sort.

Q. The emigrant depôt belongs to your house?—*A.* Yes.

Q. It has been stated in evidence here that there are many, and some still kept in confinement on board, who have been entrapped, and others who gave witness to that effect. Are you aware of it?—*A.* I am not aware of anything of that kind. I believe there are no coolies kept on board against their will.

Q. Are you prepared to produce all your coolie-brokers?—*A.* No; we have not the custody of them, and are not able to obtain them whenever we like.

Q. What guarantee have you that these people shipped by you will not be sold in slavery?—*A.* With respect to Spanish possessions, we have the guarantee afforded by a Government contract. With regard to those shipped for Sydney, we have no guarantee but the usual responsibilities which bind captains of ships to go to their place of destination: and as respects Peru, we have no guarantee as to their fate on arrival there.

Q. Would you put in a copy of the contracts usually entered into?—*A.* I will do so. (*Vide* Appendix, papers marked K and L.)

Q. Has personal violence been used by any of your firm or men in your employ, coolie-brokers and others, to any of your coolies?—*A.* Not to my knowledge.

Q. Are you aware of a placard which states (the substance thereof is read to Mr. Connolly, *vide* Appendix, paper marked B.) Can you account for the hostility expressed in that placard to your firm?—*A.* No; I cannot account for our name being associated with it, except from the general feeling against coolie-brokers on that particular occasion.

Q. Do you recollect the circumstance that occurred just before the first visit of the "Hermes" to Amoy, of coolies embarking from your house, overpowering the boatmen, and escaping?—*A.* I am aware that certain coolies did make their escape on that occasion, but I cannot state whether they overpowered the boatmen or not.

Q. How do you reconcile that fact of those that escaped, with your statement that in every case the coolies were willing to embark?—*A.* I think that their object was to go back and live longer on board the depôt, because a portion of them returned the next day.

Q. The question applied to those that did not return; how do you account for their not doing so?—*A.* I cannot account for it.

Q. But surely you will admit that their not returning was proof that they were unwilling to embark under the circumstances in which they were going?—*A.* Yes, I will admit so; but may add that I heard that they sold the clothing which had been given to them.

Q. What was the value of a suit?—*A.* About one dollar.

Q. It is stated in evidence, that on a placard stuck on the walls of Amoy, that this coolie-trade is a "buying and selling of men." Are you aware that if you receive men from coolie-brokers who have thus been bought, you render yourself liable to the penalties enforced by the Slave Trade Act?—*A.* We have not received coolies under those circumstances that I am aware of.

Q. It has been stated by the Haefang, that Mr. Tait and I think yourself by name, but certainly some one from your house, have on several occasions gone to his office, and have sent your cards demanding Chinese coolie-brokers as your servants. Do you know of any such case?—*A.* I went once to the Haefang to ask after two brokers who were then in his custody, but did so with Mr. Consul Sullivan's permission.

Q. Do you know any case of Mr. Tait having done so without the Consul's permission?—*A.* It is my belief that cards have passed between him and the Haefang respecting coolie-brokers.

Q. If he has done so, you are aware that this is illegal in the capacity of a British subject?—*A.* I do not know whether it is illegal or not.

Q. The Consul informs you it is illegal.—*A.* Yes, Mr. Backhouse has done so now.

Q. Do not you think, then, that such illegal acts will account for the

hostility evinced by the people against your house, as shown in a placard?—*A.* No; Mr. Tait has been on visiting terms, and there has been no angry feeling between them that I am aware of.

(Signed) JNO. CONNOLLY.

Æneas James Mackay, clerk in the house of Messrs. Tait and Co., called in, and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. It is reported that you were assaulted on the 21st of November; will you state the circumstances?—*A.* A man whom I had known as a coolie-broker, came into the hong, and told me that there was some fighting going on outside. He was so much agitated that I could not distinctly make out what he said; so I went out to see what it was, taking a boy with me to show me the place. I went up to the square opposite to the police-station, and as I came up there, I saw a large concourse of people assembled. They began calling out "foreigner" in Chinese, and a great many of them ran away. Then I saw a number of Chinese policemen drawn up, armed, who advanced towards me and called out to the people, "Don't be afraid." At that moment a brickbat struck me on the head, which was immediately followed by several others, some of them striking me on the head, and others falling beside me, the policemen at the same time advancing with their pikes as if to attack me. I, being stunned by the brickbats, ran away, but mistaking the road, I went straight forward and was stopped by a gate. On turning back I found that the policemen had followed me, and were presenting their pikes at me. I spoke to them in Chinese, and asked them what all this was for? I told them I belonged to Tait and Co.'s hong; they then let me pass through the pikes, and a man who seemed to command them came to me and I spoke to him to the same effect. He said, "Don't be afraid," and at the same moment I got a blow over the head with a pike; he was just going away, when I caught hold of him by the shoulder, and got away along with him from this lane, when I ran away alone. I was followed, and heard several brickbats flying about me. I then reached home.

Q. Do you think it possible that they may have mistaken you for one of those whom the Haefang states came to assist Mr. Syme in the rescue of the coolie broker, since it was at this police-office where an altercation took place between Mr. Syme and this police officer?—*A.* I am inclined to think from what I have since heard that I was mistaken for Mr. Syme.

Q. Have you any reason to suppose that they had any disposition to treat Mr. Syme as they treated you?—*A.* Yes, they had already done so, and I presume I was mistaken for him returning.

Q. Seeing that one of the authorities was defending you, would you *not* say that the attack was made by the populace?—*A.* Most decidedly not; I consider that if there had not been Chinese soldiers there, no attack would have been made, as the people who threw brickbats were standing behind the troops and seemed to be encouraged by them. The Mandarin, though he said, "Don't be afraid," took no active part to protect me.

Q. Do you know of any case wherein Mr. Tait has gone himself to the Haefang to obtain the release of a coolie broker?—*A.* I remember having heard of his having gone.

Q. Do you know of any case where coolies have been embarked against their will by Tait and Co., or any of their servants?—*A.* No, I do not know. I have been on board the vessels, and whenever any one expressed a disinclination to go, no attempt was made to force him to stay.

Q. How do you account for the fact of so many escaping about a month or six weeks since?—*A.* By the eagerness which exists amongst the coolie-brokers to outbid each other, and from the circumstance that the coolies are sometimes in debt to the coolie brokers, and that they wish to escape to evade payment of that debt.

Q. Then you assert that they are held in custody for this debt, and are desirous to escape from it?—*A.* No, not so; because if they wished to go away they might do so without paying that debt.

Q. But why should they desire to escape in the manner they did, which was a *bonâ fide* escape, if they were allowed to go quietly and voluntarily?—*A.* It is very difficult to account for the acts of a large body of men, acting

simultaneously on the spur of the moment; but I think it likely that some of them would have felt ashamed to come forward and say they wished to go away, having no reason to give for the wish.

Q. Do you know of any case of any treatment used by any one in Messrs. Tait and Co.'s employ, coolie brokers or others, towards Chinese that would not be tolerated to an Englishman?—*A.* No, I do not remember any case.

Q. Did you see the escape, or attempt at escape, of coolies from the sheds of Messrs. Syme, Muir, and Co., about a month since?—*A.* No.

Q. Did you ever witness any attempt at escape from thence on the part of coolies?—*A.* No.

Q. Did you ever see any personal violence used in coolie brokers or others in Mr. Syme's employ, in preventing the escape of coolies or in capturing them after they had escaped?—*A.* No.

Q. Have you heard of any attempt at escape?—*A.* Yes, I have heard.

Q. Do you think that their attempting to escape argued that they were free agents or the reverse?—*A.* I cannot say, not knowing the circumstances.

Q. Did you hear of a Chinese notice that was over the doorway of Mr. Syme's coolie-shed a month since, and do you know what the substance thereof was?—*A.* I understand that the Chinese was the translation of the English words "no admittance" marked over the door.

(Signed) Æ. J. MACKAY.

Richard Du Bois Agett, chief officer in charge of "Emigrant" depôt, called in, and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. It has been stated in the evidence, by six or seven of the Chinese, that they were enticed on board the "Emigrant" by Chinese brokers, and there left; and that they were detained on board against their will. Will you state what you know about this?—*A.* I know nothing of the coolies prior to their appearance on board the "Emigrant." My orders are not to detain any against their will; I am not aware that any have been so detained.

Q. Are you prepared to state, not knowing Chinese, that the coolies did not ask you, or any of your crew, to be landed, seeing they had been deceived by the coolie brokers?—*A.* I am not prepared to state so; but when applications have been made known to me, they have been complied with.

Q. It has been stated in evidence by Mr. Connolly that the coolies, before being placed on board the "Emigrant," have been examined at their house; the witnesses state they have been taken direct to the "Emigrant." State what you know on this point?—*A.* I have always understood that such examination did take place, but have never been present. All coolies have been marked prior to coming on board the ship; in fact, I cannot receive them unless they are marked.

Q. Under what circumstance did the coolies escape from the boat when being conveyed from the "Emigrant" to the "Samuel Boddington?"—*A.* I did not see them escape; and they appeared to leave the "Emigrant" contentedly enough.

Q. Have you had any riot on board?—*A.* There have been disturbances among themselves.

Q. Have you had many attempts to escape?—*A.* No.

Q. What allowance do you give them?—*A.* As much as they can eat of fish, rice, vegetables, &c.

(Signed) R. D. B. AGETT.

Lin San,* a native of Fuhkein province, called in, and being sworn through Mr. Sinclair, also duly sworn as interpreter, is examined:

Q. Do you wish to emigrate?—*A.* I do not wish to emigrate?

Q. Were you confined in Mr. Jackson's hong against your will?—*A.* I was prevented from going out by the doorkeeper.

Q. Did you ask to come out?—*A.* I saw others beaten when asking to come out, therefore did not ask.

* Lin San was brought from Mr. Jackson's coolie depôt in the city by Mr. Harvey and Commander Fishbourne, to whom he had stated his unwillingness to emigrate.

With regard to this witness, the evidence above given varies a little from the statement he made that morning to Mr. Harvey and Commander Fishbourne in Mr. Jackson's depôt.

Henry Helms, Esq., in charge of Messrs. Dent and Co.'s business at Amoy, called in, and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. You were present at the riots on the 24th?—*A.* Yes.

Q. Upon what places was the attack made?—*A.* Principally upon Mr. Syme's house, and his coolie-sheds.

Q. Do you think the "Salamander's" men were called in before it was absolutely necessary?—*A.* No, certainly not; they were wanted at that time.

Q. What consequences would have occurred had they deferred longer to call in assistance?—*A.* I think Mr. Syme's hong would have been plundered; and, not content with that, they would then have proceeded to plunder the other European hongs.

Q. Did you witness the commencement of the firing; and at what period of the riot did it take place?—*A.* Yes, I witnessed it; the firing commenced after some of the party had been knocked down by brickbats, and it became necessary in self-defence. The rabble had, previous to the firing, plundered the sheds, which made them more bold.

Q. Are you or have you been employed in the coolie emigration?—*A.* No, not at all.

Q. Do you intend to embark in it?—*A.* No, I do not.

Q. Do you infer from the attack being made upon the sheds where there was so little property that the people were much excited by the sight of them?—*A.* No, I do not. It was a safe object by which to commence a riot.

Q. Why do you think they directed their attention primarily and almost entirely to Mr. Syme's sheds?—*A.* Because he had been so unfortunate as to come in collision with the authorities some days before.

Q. How did he come in collision with the authorities?—*A.* It originated from the arrest of one of his coolie-brokers.

Q. Do you think the people were exasperated about the manner in which emigration had been carried on, and against coolie-brokers?—*A.* Yes, very much. Many complaints had been made against it. Brokers having been seized by the authorities and punished, the law being allowed to take its course, no disturbance arose.

Q. Do you think it will tend to greater harmony and greater safety to life and property of foreigners, if these sheds were removed?—*A.* My personal feelings may influence my judgment, and induce me to take an exaggerated view of its evils; but I do think it would tend to a better feeling and to greater safety of property if they were discontinued as a depôt for coolies.

Q. There were two or three occasions in which the coolies escaped from Mr. Syme's sheds. Did you witness either of these?—*A.* I did.

Q. Did you see any personal violence used towards those who escaped?—*A.* No, I did not.

Q. Were they pursued?—*A.* I did not see them pursued.

Q. Were you ever witness to personal violence used towards these coolies by any in Mr. Syme's employ?—*A.* No, I was not.

Q. Have you never seen coolies endeavour to escape, recaptured and brought back?—*A.* No, I have not.

Q. Do you know whether they have been under restraint in those sheds?—*A.* I think formerly they were.

Q. Do you know of any case of kidnapping?—*A.* I cannot speak from personal knowledge, but have reason to think such to have been the case from the parents coming to the sheds to claim their children.

Q. In your opinion how has the coolie trade affected the regular trade of the port?—*A.* Very unfavourably of late.

Q. Do you think it would affect it unfavourably if a proper system of emigration were adopted?—*A.* I cannot say; but I think from a large concourse of men being brought in together, there are always bad characters, and evils and insecurity of property, which must always affect trade injuriously, to be apprehended.

Q. Do you not think if people were allowed to come voluntarily, and not entrapped and deceived as they have been, the evils would be much less?—*A.* I think the evils would be much less.

(Signed) H. HELMS.

Robert McMurdo, in charge of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson, and Co.'s business at Amoy, called in, and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. You were present during the riots on the 24th?—*A.* I was.

Q. Did you hear the firing commence?—I did.

Q. Can you say whether any of the party had been struck by stones and brickbats, previous to the firing?—*A.* Yes, I can say so. Many were struck, and many brickbats were thrown.

Q. What in your opinion would have been the consequences of deferring to fire?—*A.* The consequences would have been most serious; general plunder of the British hongs, if not murder. I may add I saw a blow aimed at Mr. Thompson, my assistant, with an axe. He was passing in front of the hongs at the time when the excitement was greatest. He escaped only by tripping, and got safely into Mr. Syme's hong.

Q. Do you think it would conduce to the safety of property if Mr. Syme's sheds were discontinued as coolie-sheds?—*A.* Yes; I think it would be beneficial, and would conduce to the safety of property.

Q. What has been the effect of the coolie trade upon the general trade of the port?—*A.* It has had a depressing tendency since the commencement of this riot.

Q. Do you think a well-regulated system of emigration would affect the trade injuriously?—*A.* Not the least, I think.

Q. Do you think there is any indisposition on the part of the people to a well-regulated system of emigration?—*A.* I do not think so.

Q. Are you of opinion that the evils arising out of the existing system arise from exceptional cases?—*A.* I do not know.

Q. Did you see any coolies escape from Mr. Syme's or Mr. Tait's hongs at any time?—*A.* No.

Q. Were you witness to any personal violence in Mr. Tait's, Mr. Syme's, or Mr. Jackson's hongs, at any time?—*A.* No.

Q. Why in your opinion did the people direct their attack upon Mr. Syme's shed premises?—*A.* I cannot account for it; except that the coolie-broker who was so obnoxious to the people was on those premises.

Q. Did you hear why the people shut their shops?—*A.* I think it was from the excitement at the time.

(Signed) RT. Mc MURDO.

Friday, December 17, 1852.

The *Rev. John V. N. Talmage*, American missionary at Amoy, called in, and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. State the substance of a conversation which you are said in evidence to have held with Mr. Syme on the subject of coolie-brokers?—*A.* There were half a-dozen respectable Chinese on Monday and Tuesday who came requesting me to intercede with the merchants, asking them to give two promises in order to satisfy the people. One promise was, that the coolie-broker who had been arrested on Sunday evening, and was said to be then at Mr. Syme's hong, should be delivered up to the Chinese authorities. The other promise was, to secure against any future decoying of men by these brokers. In my conversation with Mr. Syme on this subject, I stated these requests of the Chinese. I told Mr. Syme, that respectable Chinese assured me that these two promises would be sufficient to satisfy the people. They would then again commence their business as formerly.* I also stated to Mr. Syme some reports I heard respecting some placards (above alluded to, lettered A and B).

Q. Did you think Mr. Syme was a party to the deception practised on the people?—*A.* I did not think so.

Q. What, in your opinion, was the immediate cause of riot?—*A.* The immediate cause was, in my opinion, the reports in circulation that coolie-brokers

were decoying men to go off as emigrants. These reports centered mostly on Mr. Syme's hong, a few also on Mr. Tait's hong.

Q. Do you believe it to be true, that the people are generally tempted to leave home for Amoy by false promises?—*A.* The number so dealt with is not great.

Q. Do you not think there is a moral obligation resting on the employers of these coolie-brokers to feed those so brought down, or pay their expenses back?—*A.* If brought down under false pretences, certainly.

Q. And therefore the employer can have no claim to confine such persons upon the ground that they had fed them a fortnight or three weeks?—*A.* Certainly not these; and I am doubtful whether they have the right to confine any.

Q. And still less, you would say, have they a right to expatriate them against their will?—*A.* They can have no right to expatriate them against their will.

Q. Is it your opinion that various attempts of the coolies to escape have arisen principally from an unwillingness to emigrate?—*A.* It is my opinion; but I suppose some of those who have attempted to escape originally entered principally for the sake of food, without having been decoyed.

Q. Do you not think that a contract to be just should be entered into before either of the parties was brought under obligation, and while they were still free agents?—*A.* I think the substance of the contract should be explained to them previously.

Q. Do you think a well-regulated system of emigration would be acceptable to the people here, and beneficial?—*A.* There would be many objections to it, but still I think there are very many people who would be willing to go.

Q. Is it your opinion, founded upon your own knowledge, or on statements made to you by the Chinese, that the coolies have been under undue restraint in the sheds?—*A.* I think they have been under undue restraint; but know not how much of this is chargeable to the merchants. I may add that, formerly, they might have been ignorant of the evils perpetrated by their servants; but now, after the late disclosures, a solemn responsibility rests upon them to see that the coolies are not unjustly dealt with.

Q. Do you think it would tend to improve the feelings between the Europeans and Chinese if these sheds were dispensed with, or thrown open to the public view?—*A.* If thrown open to the public view, there would probably be no need to dispense with them. The attack made upon them I believe to have arisen from a disposition to plunder by a bad description of people, taking advantage of the hostility shown by the respectable portion of the community to coolie emigration in general, and to the coolie brokers for their deceptions in particular. Various meetings were held by the respectable Chinese, at which suggestions were made for the destruction of the English hongs, the attacking the coolie-ships, and various other extreme measures with a view to mitigate the evils of the system; but these were all repudiated, as likely to be injurious to their own interests, because their successes could only be temporary, as in two or or three days steamers would be up from Hong Kong, and the rabble, after plundering the foreign hongs, would plunder indiscriminately among the natives.

(Signed) JOHN V. N. TALMAGE.

Arthur L. H. Walthew, passenger on board the "Australia," called in, and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. On what day were you attacked by the rabble, and state the circumstances?—*A.* On Sunday evening, the 21st, the chief officer of the "Australia" and self, while coming from the compradore of the ship, met a number of Chinese, who appeared to be in a state of excitement. They were talking very loudly, but of course we did not understand what they said, and therefore proceeded onwards. When we came to the square in which the police-office is said to be placed, we were surrounded by a mob, who pointed at us, and appeared to be drawing the attention of some other party towards us, and were extremely violent both in language and action, but did not attempt to molest us at the time; when suddenly a number of men with spears advanced from the direction of the police-office, and drove the crowd before them, which carried me along, and by this act separated me from Mr. Vallancey; and immediately after, being pushed down a

flight of steps, stones and brickbats were thrown at me. By this time it was quite dark. After about a couple of minutes, seeing that return to seek for my friend was impossible, owing to the crowd, I proceeded to Messrs. Tait and Co.'s, and finally to the ship for assistance.

(Signed) ARTHUR L. H. WALTHEW.

William Cornabé, British subject, assistant in the house of Syme, Muir, and Co., called in, and being duly sworn, is examined:

Q. It has been stated that Mr. Syme went to the police-office with the intention of liberating a coolie-broker. Can you state that he did not go for that purpose?—*A.* No, I cannot.

Q. It has been stated that Mr. Syme has frequently gone to the Haefang, and has also sent his card, claiming the delivering up of coolie-brokers, stating that they were his servants. Has he done so?—*A.* He may have done so, but not to my knowledge.

Q. Do you recollect the circumstances under which coolies escaped from the shed of Messrs. Syme, Muir and Co. through the roof and water-closet?—*A.* I recollect hearing of some escaping through the water-closet.

Q. Can you explain why, if these men were not in confinement, they should prefer escaping through the water-closet in preference to coming out through the door?—*A.* I supposed they escaped in that way because they were afraid of the brokers.

Nothing further that was satisfactory could be elicited from this witness. He was young, and his evidence became so confused that it could not be relied upon. He was therefore desired to withdraw.

British Consulate, Amoy, December 17, 1852.

(Signed) J. BACKHOUSE, *Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul in charge.*
FREDERIC HARVEY, *Secretary to Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary.*
E. GARDINER FISHBOURNE, *Commanding Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Hermes."*

Appendix (A).

Proclamation issued by the Scholars and Merchants of Amoy.

NOTICE, being an exposure of, for the purpose of counteracting, the artifices of hardened miscreants, who impose on the people and seduce them to their destruction.

From the time that the barbarians began to trade at Amoy, they have had the practice of buying people to sell again; subjecting those guiltless of crime to cruel treatment, and employing evil-disposed and traitorous natives to entice away peaceable people. These agents, styled brokers, consisting of some scores intimately leagued together, would attach to themselves several hundreds of others, and removing all restraint from their inordinate cupidity, would follow the course of their interest wherever it might lead, without any scruple. They have daily in the country, along the coast, sought about in all directions for persons whom they might entice away, with the end of making gain for themselves by the detriment of others. By the prospect of minute advantage they drew away lonely and destitute persons, while they held out alluring baits to seduce the younger members of settled families. Their tricks were innumerable, and they would dexterously conceal their real designs. They would pretend to hire their victims for employment by which they might realize a livelihood, and then drive them into the pits prepared; or they would cheat them with promises of advantage (here some Malay words are used which are unintelligible) and thus get them within their power; or perhaps would invite them to travel and divert themselves, and so urge men to destruction. Every kind of abomination they were addicted to. The ignorant country-people have many times thus been lost in numbers. From souls so abandoned to covetousness every spark of innate right feeling must have departed.

The men being inveigled to the barbarian houses and ships, are publicly sold. When once amongst them they cannot understand their gibberish, and

they are kept in close confinement. They may implore Heaven, and their tears may wet the earth, but their complaints are uttered in vain. When carried to the barbarian regions, day and night they are impelled to labour, without intervals even for sleep. To advance or retreat is equally impossible to them; death is their sole relief.

Moreover, they can transmit or receive no intelligence; none knows whether they be alive or dead, and the hearts of their parents and families are torn with anxiety. The succession of their families is cut off, an injury for which nothing can atone. Alas! those who living were denizens of the central flowery country, dead, their ghosts wander in strange lands. O, azure Heaven above! in this way are destroyed our righteous people.

Our present suggestion is, that the benevolent and respectable public shall unite in exercising their influence to repress these practices. Let fathers caution their sons, and elder brothers their younger brothers, for seeing the evil, and guarding against it. Let none misguidedly lend themselves to promote the schemes of wicked traitors. Let us mutually warn each other, and point out to all men the roads which, while of life to one, are of death to ten thousand. We venture, as above, to express our humble but sincere and heartfelt sentiments, trusting that they may receive the consideration of the public.

Notification by the scholars and merchants of Amoy.

A true translation,
(Signed) M. C. MORRISON.

Appendix (B).

Proclamation issued by the Inhabitants of the Eighteen Wards.

THE barbarians are ungovernable in the extreme, and their only motive of action is desire for gain. We, the people of the eighteen wards (the town of Amoy), have now agreed that we will have no dispute with the barbarians, but will concert measures for the regulation of our conduct amongst ourselves. From this time, if any persons transact business with the Te-ki and Ho-ki hongs (Tait and Co., and Syme, Muir, and Co.), they shall be put to death, their property seized, and their houses destroyed without mercy. None shall be permitted to establish firms for foreign trade. Any brokers who are caught shall not be carried before the authorities, but shall be at once killed. Hereby we express the public indignation, and do not employ words of course. All are warned therefore to abstain from testing the truth of them. If Tait and Syme give up to the authorities, that he may have justice dealt on him, the broker whom one day they carried away, it will then be permitted for them to do business again.

A true translation,
(Signed) M. C. MORRISON.

Appendix (C).

Notice.

JACKSON is desirous of temporarily engaging the services of coolies to go to foreign countries, as labourers on wages, verily higher than any obtainable at Amoy; the firm is, however, not plotting to realize profits at the expense of well-disposed people. The 7th or 8th of this month is about the time fixed for departure. Should any persons, victims of abduction, be unwilling to proceed, their parents or brethren must come to the premises of the firm, and procure an order to the vessel for their restoration, and their delivery shall on no account be denied. This notice is given for general information.

Heenfung, 2nd year, 10th month, 6th day.
(*November* 17, 1852.)

True translation,
(Signed) W. H. MEDHURST,
Chinese Secretary.

Appendix (D).

Notice.

JACKSON is desirous of temporarily engaging the services of coolies to go to foreign lands, as labourers on wages, verily higher than any obtainable at Amoy; the firm is however not plotting to realize profits to the injury of well-disposed people; they harbour no such intention. Any indigent persons in the neighbourhood, who have no relations dependent upon or connected with them, may come forward and offer their services. Should any become the victims of abduction, a word spoken to Jackson at the time of telling off, and payment of all expenses, will secure their being returned * to their homes; this promise may be depended upon. A notice for general information.

Heenfung, 2nd year, — month, — day.

(, 1852)

True translation,

(Signed) W. H. MEDHURST,
Chinese Secretary.

Appendix (E).

Form of Agreement.

MEMORANDUM of agreement made and entered into this day of , in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty , between a native of China of the one part, and of in the colony of of the other part: witnesseth that the said agrees to serve the said his executors, administrators, and assigns, and such person or persons whom he or they may place in charge over the said , in the capacity of shepherd, farm and general servant, and labourer in the said colony, for the term of five years, (to commence from the date of this agreement,) and to obey all his or their lawful orders, and the orders of such persons as may be placed in charge over him. And the said agrees to pay the said at the end of every three months, wages at the rate of dollars per month, the said amount to be paid in sterling British money, at the exchange of four shillings per dollar. And also to provide the following weekly rations, namely,—

1 lb. of sugar,
8 lbs. of flour, or 10 lbs. of rice, at the employer's option,
8 lbs. of meat,
2 ozs. of tea.

The wages to commence fourteen days after the arrival of the said in the said colony. And the said agrees to pay to the said out of the first monies or wages to be received by him, by four equal quarterly payments, the sum of six dollars now advanced to him.

Signed in the presence of

Appendix (F).

Lieutenant Smith to Commander Ellman.

Sir, "*Salamander*," *Amoy, November* 25, 1852.

AGREEABLY to your orders at 8·30 A.M. of yesterday, I proceeded with an armed party of five officers, eight marines, and thirty-seven seamen, to protect the house of Syme, Muir, and Co., merchants, and placed the men in the balcony, when I observed the mob make a rush at the outhouse, and carry away every-

* My native assistant reads this "will secure their being returned, expenses paid;" a rendering which, though perhaps not intended, the original will likewise bear.—W. H. M.

thing they could lay their hands upon. I went down with the party and drove them out of the building. While I was there, I was requested by Mr. Connolly (belonging to the house of Tait and Co.) to bring a party to his house, as a large mob was collecting there. I proceeded with ten men and drove the mob back into the town and placed Mr. Orr (acting mate) and eight men as a guard at the upper end of the street, being then informed by a Mr. Wardrop, who came for that purpose, that the mob was collecting very fast round the house of Messrs. Syme, Muir, and Co., I returned and found our men being stoned by the mob, and Mr. Purkis (gunner) much cut about the face. I gave the order to retreat into the house, finding that the mob was determined to attack it, leaving Mr. Nurse (acting mate) with a guard of eight men. I proceeded with Mr. West (assistant surgeon) and Captain Mc Murdo (agent of Jardine, Matheson, and Co.) as a guide through the back of the hong into the street, and marched the rest of the party through the alley leading down by Mr. Jackson's hong, and charged the mob with fixed bayonets; but finding them determined to hold their ground, and myself and Mr. West being knocked down by stones and other available missiles, I gave the order to commence firing in self-defence. The mob finding some of their party fall began to retreat, but not before they had well contested the ground, and violently struck most of our party. When I found we had regained the ground round the hongs, I gave the orders to cease firing, and everything remained quiet after the ground was cleared, when there was one Chinese found lying dead and three wounded, but how many were injured altogether I had not the means of ascertaining.

I remain, &c.

(Signed) CHAS. H. SMITH.

Appendix (G).

Plan of Messrs. Syme, Muir, and Co.'s Coblie Shed.

Appendix (H).

Deposition of Mr. Vallancey.

I, RICHARD VALLANCEY, mate of the ship "Australia," Noble, master, now lying in the port of Amoy, believing myself to be in a dying state, make the following declaration.

I was walking with a companion last night through a narrow lane, where we met a great number of people, walking in the direction opposite to that which we were pursuing. At the bottom of this lane there was a flight of steps, which we descended; and then turning the corner to our left, found ourselves in an open space with a building with a large door, at the end of which we entered. There were a great number of people in this place. Those I saw at first were not armed. They appeared to be trying to draw the attention of some parties towards us; and on getting partly through the unarmed mob, I saw a body of men armed with spears, who rushed upon us directly we appeared in sight. I was driven a short distance up one of the turnings leading from the small square in which we were attacked, when I was brought to the ground by something which I believe to have been one of the wounds which I have received in my thigh. After I was down I received the remainder of my wounds. They ran their spears into me, and cut me with them several times, besides beating me over the head. At this time I fainted, and on recovering, found myself in the hands of people, who were robbing me, but who offered me no violence. I eventually reached the water side, followed to the last by people feeling my pockets for money, &c.

The men who were armed did not wear the same head-dress as the unarmed mob. They wore what appeared to be a kind of turned-up cap. I also think their dresses were longer than usual.

his

(Signed) RICHARD ⋈ VALLANCEY.

mark.

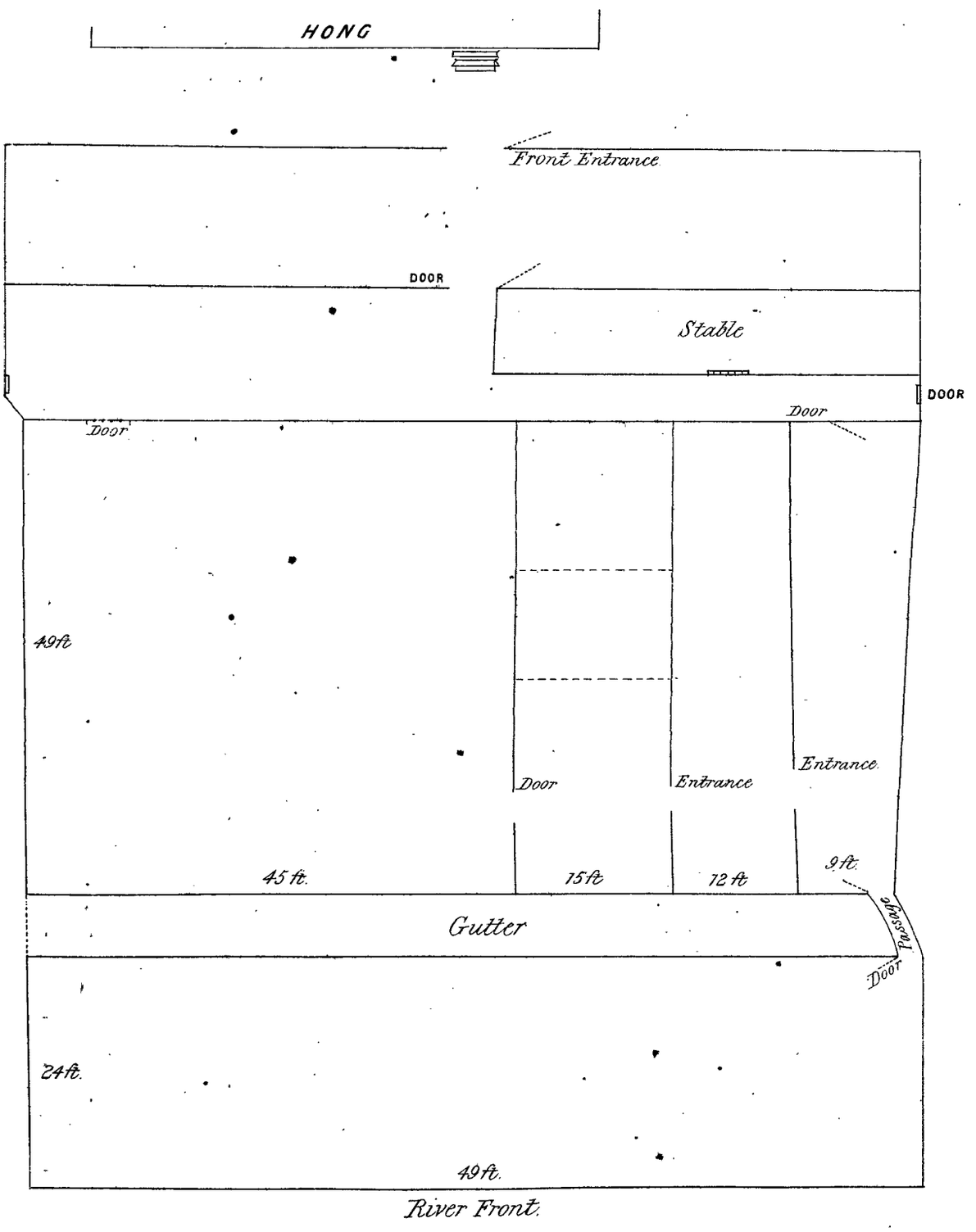
Witnesses:

(Signed) John Connolly.

Robert Wardrop.

APPENDIX.

G.


HONG
Front Entrance
DOOR
Stable
DOOR
Door
Door
49ft
Door
Entrance
Entrance
45 ft.
15ft
12 ft
9ft.
Passage
Gutter
Door
24ft.
49ft.
River Front.

Appendix (I).

Certificate by Mr. Bland.

WAS called off shore about seven o'clock in the evening of November the twenty-first, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two; on my arrival on board the ship "Australia" found the first-mate of the aforesaid ship in his berth, in a state of insensibility, through excessive hemorrhage produced by wounds and contusions received in the city of Amoy, China. On examination found on left temple a punctured wound, deep, half inch in length, extending from the ear upwards; on right temple, punctured wound not so deep as on left temple, but similarly situated. On anterior part of left upper arm, punctured wound, deep and one inch in length, extending across the humerus. On abdomen a punctured wound situated on umbilical region, one inch above the navel; on right groin a punctured wound, deep and one inch in length; on superior part of right thigh, two punctured wounds, situated anteriorly one inch in length. On inner part of right thigh, two deep wounds one inch in length; on posterior or under part of right thigh, one punctured wound very deep and one inch in length; extending across tibia or shin bone, punctured wound about one inch in length. Four superficial wounds on hands and fingers; on left radial or shin bone, superficial wound; on head and face several contusions, on left arm and hand contusions, the left side of face, arm and hand very much enlarged in consequence of the wounds and contusions.

Applied the usual dressings necessary in a case of punctured wounds, or wounds inflicted with a sword, bayonet, spear, or other pointed instrument.

It is my opinion from the situation and extent of the wounds, contusions, &c., received from Mr. Vallancey, the first-mate of the ship "Australia," that he will remain unfit for sea service for some months, should he recover.

(Signed) HENRY JOHN BLAND,

Amoy, December 6, 1852. *Surgeon, ship "Australia."*

Appendix (K).

Form of Agreement.

YO natural del Pueblo de provincia de Fokien en China, de edad de años y de oficio Labrador, declaro que he convenido con en que me embarcaré en el Buque con objeto de trasladarme á la Habana en la Ysla de Cuba, obligándome desde mi llegada á dedicarme en ella á las ordenes de aquella Junta de Fomento á cualesquiera clase de trabajo que se me destine yá en los Yngenios ú otras fincas durante las horas acostumbradas en las mismas; yá fuera de ellas segun convenga á la Junta ó las Personas á quienes sea traspasado este contrato, y á ejecutar los trabajos espresados por pesos fuertes de salario al mes (que empezará á correr á las cuarenta y ocho horas de saltar en tierra en la Habana) la manutencion de ocho onzas de carne salada: una y media libra de platanos, boniatos ú otras raices alimenticias, asistencia de medico y enfermeria, dos mudas de ropa y una frazada anuales y una camisa de lana; conviniendo en que en los casos de enfermedad, si esta escediese de quince dias, se me suspenda el salario hasta que vuelva á trabajar, continuandoseme entre tanto la asistencia de enfermeria, cumpliendo con estas obligaciones por espacio de ocho años continuos que se fijan por termino á este contrato, durante los cuales no me será permitido ausentarme de la Ysla de Cuba ni negar mis servicios á la espresada Junta ó á las personas á quienes sea traspasado este contrato, cumplido el cual quedaré en libertad de obrar como mejor me parezca. Mi pasaje y manutencion ábordo del espresado buque sera de cuenta de de quien confieso he recibido la cantidad de pesos en plata para mi habilitacion al viaje que voy á emprender, y dos mudas de ropa nueva para saltar en tierra importantes pesos; á condicion de que ambas partidas, ó sean pesos fuertes los pagaré en la Habana al Cambio de á la orden de los Señors

Villoldo, Wardrop, y Compañia con un peso al mes que se me descontará de mi salario por la precitada Junta de Fomento ó las personas á quienes fuere traspasado este contrato; entendiendose que por ningun otro concepto podrá hacerseme descuento alguno. Y en fé de que cumpliré puntualmente con las obligaciones que quedan espresadas firmo en Emuy, el de 185

(Firmado)

Ante mi

(Firmado)

APPENDIX (L).

Form of Agreement.

I , native of the village of , in the province of Fokien, in China, of the age of years, have agreed to embark in the vessel , with the object of proceeding to the colony of British Guiana, obliging myself from and after my arrival to dedicate myself there to the orders of the Honourable the Immigration Agent of that colony to whatever class of labour I may be destined, whether in plantations or other estates, during the customary hours of work in that colony, or even at other than plantation labour, as may be most convenient to the Honourable the Immigration Agent, or whoever may become the holder of this engagement, and to perform said work for four dollars of salary monthly, maintenance of 8 ounces of beef, 1½ lbs. of other alimentary food daily, medical assistance and medicines, two suits of clothes, one blanket and one flannel shirt annually; it being agreed that in case of sickness, should it exceed fifteen days, my salary will be suspended until I return to work, continuing in the meanwhile to receive medicines and medical attendance; or in place of all the foregoing that I shall receive six dollars per menth, and find myself in all provisions and other necessaries, fulfilling these obligations for the space of five years continuous, which are fixed for the term of this engagement, during which it shall not be permitted me to leave the colony, nor deny my services to the persons to whom this engagement may be transferred; at the end of that period I shall be at liberty to act as may seem to me best. My passage and maintenance on board of said vessel shall be on account of Messrs. Hyde, Hodge, and Co., from whom I confess having received by Messrs. Tait and Co. the sum of nine dollars in silver for my outfit for said voyage, and also two suits of new clothes with which to land, amounting to two and a-half dollars, on condition that both sums, eleven and a-half dollars, I shall pay in Demerara to the order of Messrs. Hyde, Hodge, and Co., by one dollar monthly, which shall be deducted from my salary by the Honourable the Immigration Agent, or the persons to whom this engagement may be transferred, it being understood that on no other plea whatever shall anything be deducted from my wages; and in faith of fulfilling punctually the said obligation, I signed in Amoy this the day of 1852.

It is understood that the salary agreed shall commence to run from within twenty-four hours after landing at Demerara, unless both parties agree to cancel this agreement after arrival there.

Witness to signature, the contents being fully understood by the said

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Inclosure 9 in No. 14.

Mr. Sinclair to Mr. Harvey.

Sir, *Amoy, December* 18, 1852.

HAVING at the desire of Mr. Vice-Consul Backhouse, accompanied you to the marine magistrate's, I beg at your request to furnish you with as circumstantial an account as I can of the nature of that interview. I recollect that on the purpose of the approaching investigation being explained to the marine magistrate, he was requested to produce the coolie-broker, then in his custody, to give his evidence as to the origin of the scuffle between Mr. Syme and the

soldiers at the police-station, and that the magistrate recognizing the importance of his evidence, said he regretted he could not, on his own responsibility, comply with your request, because the whole matter had been submitted for the decision of the authorities at Foochowfoo, but that he would mention the subject to the Taoutae.

On the merits of the riot being entered into, he expressed not only hopes that the traffic in Chinese coolies would be put a stop to, but that the persons who had fired on the people and killed and wounded four or five Chinese, would be punished by the British authorities. It was, however, observed to him that the rabble had to all appearances collected at the gate of the English hong for plunder, and that therefore the English soldiers had been justified in protecting British life and property. The magistrate denied that the people were come to plunder, for that they were unarmed and empty-handed, but that their hatred was directed against the coolie brokers who had done so much harm, and who were ensconced inside the shed (opposite the Ho-ke hong); he, however, admitted, on the question being put to him, that the English would have been justified in shooting down those men, had they been plunderers or murderers; but that they were inoffensive persons of respectable condition, whilst others a far way out of the crowd, some in their boats, others on their balconies, and in particular a babe still in arms, had been innocently involved. He again repeatedly denied that the people there assembled before the hong were for plunder. He said that it was the intention of the Chinese authorities to punish the men who had speared and wounded the English mate, but he also required from the British Government the trial and punishment of the individuals who had killed four or five of their Chinese subjects.

He thought the present occasion that a man-of-war was sent up, propitious for putting an end to the illegal traffic carried on by British merchants in Chinese coolies for emigration to foreign lands; whilst on their side they were actively employed in securing the persons of these nefarious brokers, in order to make them suffer for the evil they were the cause of.

These appear to me, Sir, to be the main points of the conversation which passed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. A. SINCLAIR,
Interpreter.

Inclosure 10 in No. 14.

Account of the Interview at the Marine Magistrate's on the 14th instant.

THE interview was opened on the part of Captain Fishbourne, R.N., by expressing to the marine magistrate the desire which the British Government evinced to correct certain abuses which had crept into the system of emigration at this port, and anxiously wished for the co-operation of the Chinese authorities in effecting their purpose, so as to deal, in the investigation which was now being held, as justly by the Chinese as would be done by the English themselves. The marine magistrate did not conceal his admiration of the spirit of justice which animated the British Government, and expressed much satisfaction at the decisive steps which the British Plenipotentiary had thought proper to adopt for the suppression of the present train of evils, and that he was equally sanguine in the same cause; that he had already several of these nefarious Kihtows or coolie-brokers in his custody, and that he would proceed with unmitigated rigour against the whole of them, and would not rest quiet until the entire class of them had suffered for the evil they had wrought; but he strongly protested against the interference of the merchants, who, he said (naming Messrs. Tait and Syme), had, on every occasion of an arrest, either sent in their cards with messages for the release of such or such a broker, or else come themselves to get them out. The marine magistrate consequently took this opportunity of formally complaining, and thought the present occasion a favourable one of putting a stop to such proceedings, hoping that the necessary orders would be given for their discontinuance. He said he felt that it was fully time to stop the evil, which had assumed a criminal tendency, and that the coolie-brokers, being the wicked parties, ought to be severely punished and made an example of; and

he desired not to be interfered with in the performance of his magisterial duties.

The coolie-broker, whose evidence was required, was then carried into the room in a dying state: his legs bore the marks of severe bruises and gashes, scarcely healed; near the kneepan still left the bone bare. He was evidently on the brink of death, and speech seemed of difficult utterance. The magistrate said that he had thus been ill used by the exasperated mob who had captured him, and who had handed him over to him in that condition. The coolie-broker being too far gone to give his evidence, only one single question, "whether he was the same broker of the Ho-ke hong?" was put to him, to which he nodded his head, and said yes, and was then removed. It was then asked whether the military mandarins or any of his soldiers present when Mr. Syme went to get the broker out of their custody, and on the occasion of that scuffle, could be produced and sent to the Consulate in the morning to give their evidence. The magistrate, acknowledging the importance of these witnesses, said he would make an application for them at the military station, and send word in the morning; but that he knew the mandarin alluded to was away on duty with the Admiral.

The marine magistrate then begged, now that the British Government had ordered an investigation, that the merchants might be strictly prohibited from carrying on any longer their traffic in Chinese coolies, for he was convinced it would sooner or later cause serious disturbances and endanger life and property, when the support of the Chinese mandarins would no longer have effect; these were apprehensions looming in the future, which he considered his duty at present distinctly to state for the future peace and welfare of the community.

To the proposal whether a petty officer might not be appointed by the Chinese officials to inspect each emigrant ship as she left, for the purpose of satisfying himself that no coolies were carried out of the country against their will, the Haefang (marine magistrate) smiled at the idea, and stated that there was a general prohibition in the code of laws against the emigration of Chinese subjects. He bitterly complained of the wickedness of these coolie-brokers, who were doubly culpable. He was told that he should seize all those brokers who kidnap and deceive, and then emigration would go on smoothly. He replied to this that they were all inside English hongs, and that when he got hold of any of them a merchant would come forward and claim them; to wit, the last instance, when the Hoke hong merchant went to the station and got that man out, against whom the people bore such a bitter hatred.

The ill-treatment of the mate of the English vessel ("Australia") was then complained of; he had been speared in several places, and his body otherwise bruised by Chinese soldiers, whilst he was passing by in a most inoffensive manner; he was an injured man for life, and by the custom of England he claimed an indemnity of 5000 dollars. The marine magistrate said it was not the usage in China to pay money as compensation for wounds inflicted, but that by the laws the case should be minutely investigated, and the offenders punished; that they had similar cases of innocent persons having been shot or wounded—persons who were at a distance out of the crowd—one a boatman in his boat, another an unfortunate child—and still the Chinese did not claim compensation for the serious injury sustained by them; but he required the trial and punishment of those persons who fired upon the disarmed people and shot four men, wounding two or three others.

He was made to understand that the fire-arms had been discharged in self-defence upon the rabble, who presented a very menacing attitude and seemed intent on plunder, having actually begun to enter Mr. Syme's hong; that it was not till after the English soldiers had been brickbatted that they fired.

The magistrate denied that the people were there for plunder, but said they were collected there to revenge themselves on the coolie brokers who had been carrying on a course of kidnapping; that not one of the people then present was armed, but all were empty-handed; he, therefore, denied that they had come for the sake of plunder: he added, had the four men who had been killed been either vagabonds or thieves the soldiers would have been justified in firing; but that the victims were respectable people of Amoy, and that their relatives were daily harassing him with petitions for redress, and for the punishment of the offenders; he was told that by the Treaty regulations whenever Chinese have to complain of English subjects their duty is to state their grievances to their

authorities, who will communicate on the subject with the British Consul and get the grievance redressed. But in this instance the people had not done so, they had taken the law into their own hands; they had attacked an English hong, and if any had innocently suffered it was but only what happened in every riotous case where troops are called upon to do their duty. He was told that he should have written to the Consul about the coolie broker being obnoxious, which the magistrate said he did by verbal messages, and that the Taoutae had written on the whole matter to the British Consul.

To the best of my recollection, I believe the above to be the substance of the proceedings and conversation which took place at the marine magistrate's on the 14th instant.

Amoy Consulate, December 18, 1852.

(Signed) CHAS. A. SINCLAIR,
Interpreter.

Inclosure 11 in No. 14.

Paper read in Court by Vice-Consul Backhouse to Mr. Connolly.

MR. CONNOLLY, I summoned you to appear before this Court to answer to a charge of misprision, preferred against you by certain coolies. It was my intention to have referred the case to his Excellency Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary, as one coming under the Slave Act, but from various circumstances that have transpired in the evidence given before the Court of Inquiry into the late disturbances in Amoy, I find that there is no direct evidence you were aware of the illegal means used by your coolie brokers to obtain emigrants, and that the ignorance of yourself and the servants of your firm of the Chinese language, prevented your understanding any objection that might have been raised by those brought to you as applicants for emigration. In consideration of this I had determined to treat the case as one of misprision; this I am, however, prevented from doing, as the coolies themselves have either absconded, or have been taken, from the Consulate.

I now deem it my duty to point out to you the very dangerous position in which you have placed yourself in not having taken some sure measures for ascertaining the willingness or otherwise of those brought to you and stated to be willing applicants for emigration. I must also warn you that you are responsible for the acts of those employed by you as coolie brokers, so far as respects those coolies accepted by you as emigrants. And again, that any visit from you to the Chinese authorities on such a subject as a coolie broker, renders you liable to be dealt with in a summary manner for a breach of Treaty. I must also remark that the appearance of the name of your firm in a Chinese placard relative to the buying and selling of men mentioned in Mr. Burns' evidence, would naturally lead me to infer that the alleged acts of your firm were, in a measure, the cause of the disturbance on the 24th ultimo.

For want of evidence the case is dismissed.

(Signed) J. BACKHOUSE,
Her Majesty's Vice-Consul in charge.

Inclosure 12 in No. 14.

Official Notice by Wang, Acting Sub-Prefect at Amoy.

KIH-TOWS (or brokers), who delude poor people to make a traffic of them, commit a serious breach of the law which prohibits it.

Strict orders have consequently been given to the police for the apprehension of these guilty persons, whom it is necessary to proceed against with all the rigour of the law.

Such of the constabulary as shall be cognizant of their wicked acts, and not denounce the offenders, shall alike be legally tried and punished with them.

Ye all whom this concerns, make haste to reform and repent, and thereby avoid incurring the heavy penalties of the law.

True translation,

(Signed) CHAS. A. SINCLAIR, *Interpreter.*

Inclosure 13 in No. 14.

Proclamation.

WANG, Sub-Prefect of Amoy, &c., with a view to the restoration of quiet, hereby issues a proclamation to reassure the native population, to calm all foreign merchants, and rigorously to prohibit ill-disposed persons from seeking occasion to foment disturbances.

The broker Lin Hwan, who lately produced a commotion by practising abduction, and employing stratagem to dispose of his victims, having now been delivered up to justice and punished, all animosities are at an end, tranquillity is restored to its former basis, and trade will proceed as of old. Yet, as I am apprehensive that some ill-disposed vagabonds may create occasion of disturbance, and so excite the mob in the streets as to cause general fighting and tumult—a result truly unseemly and disgraceful—I make this proclamation for the information of all shopkeepers and householders throughout the town, and hereby call upon you all to rest quietly occupied with your own avocations. Should any vagabonds raise a commotion of any kind, I certainly shall forthwith proceed to take them into custody, and visit them with condign punishment.

I require implicit obedience from every one; let none oppose. A special Edict.

Heenfung, 2nd year, 10th month, 14th day.
(*November* 25, 1852.)

True translation,

(Signed) W. H. MEDHURST,
Chinese Secretary.

NOTE.—The characters which I have translated in the preamble "to calm the foreign merchants," are objectionable, as implying a relation to foreigners in which the authority proclaiming cannot stand, and attaching to them a term which is generally considered opprobrious.

W. H. M.

Inclosure 14 in No. 14.

Further Proclamation.

WANG, Sub-Prefect of Amoy, &c., hereby issues a proclamation rigorously prohibiting the irregular publication of placards, with a view to putting an end to the circulation of fabricated tales, and the inflaming of men's minds thereby.

Whereas natives and foreigners reside together in Amoy in mutual peace and harmony, I have already issued an edict prohibiting, on pain of severe penalties, all vagabonds from seeking occasion to create disturbances. Of late, however, I have been informed that the streets and lanes of the town are constantly being placarded with anonymous statements, falsely purporting to have been indited by scholars and mercantile bodies, and containing all kinds of fabrications, a practice which constitutes the worst form of endeavour to excite the multitude. Considering that all my conduct is infallibly based upon justice, and invariably dictated by prudence, and that the dispositions of my people have ever been characterised by gentleness and moderation, application should be made, when occasion requires, to the authorities for judgment and decision; how is it then that you have attempted thus irregularly to thrust upon me your views, and to misrepresent right and wrong?

I now make this proclamation for the information of all shopkeepers, &c.;

if any anonymous placards be stuck up, come forthwith and report the matter to me, and I will certainly punish the parties concerned with the utmost penalty of the law, and without a particle of mercy. Such is my edict.

Heenfung, 2nd year, 10th month, 16th day.
(*November* 27, 1852.)

True translation,
(Signed) W. H. MEDHURST,
Chinese Secretary.

Inclosure 15 in No. 14.

Deposition of Lin Hwan, Broker.

LIN HWAN deposeth as follows:

I am a broker; I have deceived and entrapped people. Because that day I had entrapped a man in the Chuh-tsae street, I was seized by the people, who took and gave me over to the Chung-ting.

Foreigners from the Ho-ke and Tih-ke hongs with their clerks came to claim me. A riot then took place on this account; I took this opportunity to escape into the Ho-ke hong; on the 24th of November I was removed from the hong to the magistracy.

This is the truth.

True translation,
(Signed) CHAS. A. SINCLAIR,
Interpreter.

Inclosure 16 in No. 14.

Copy of Survey held on Three Vessels loading with Coolies at Amoy.

Pursuant to an order from E. G. Fishbourne, Esq., Commander of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Hermes," we, whose names are hereunto subscribed, have held a strict survey on the several vessels undermentioned, contrasting them with a vessel equipped under the Passengers Act, on the points stated in the heading of the several columns.

Name of Vessel.	Dimensions of Vessel, in Tons.	Passengers' Space, in Feet.	Number of Passengers allowed to be conveyed under the Act.	If Passengers' Decks are part of the permanent structure of the Vessel, and of adequate Strength.	Dimensions of Berths and number of Tiers on each Passenger-Deck.	Quantity of Hospital Space.	Number of Boats, &c.	Number of Men (Natives).	Dietary Scale per week per Adult.	Whether they have Interpreters, and how many.	Whether they have a Qualified Medical Man.
Required by Passengers Act	600	4,500	300	Yes	2	120 in 8 berths	1 long-boat 1 life-boat 2 other boats 2 life-buoys	26	3 quarts of water, daily; 2½ pounds of bread or biscuit; 1 pound of flour; 6 pounds of oatmeal; 2 pounds of rice; ½ pound of sugar; 2 ozs. of tea, or 4 ozs. of cocoa or coffee; 2 ozs. of salt.	2 speaking Chinese and English	Yes.
Sir Thomas Gresham ..	594	2,990	199	Yes	None	108 in 8 berths	1 long-boat 1 life-boat 2 other boats 2 life-buoys	14 Europeans and 7 foreigners	3 quarts of water, daily. Other dietary not known at present	One	No.
Columbus	467	2,579	171	Yes	None	80 in 8 berths	1 long-boat 3 other boats No life-buoy	18 Europeans, 1 Chinese	Not known at present	One	Yes.
Spartan	364	2,300	153	Yes	None	86, no berths	1 long-boat 3 other boats 1 life-buoy	17 Europeans	3 quarts of water, daily; 10½ pounds of rice, weekly; 1¾ pounds of beef, preserved meats, or fish	One	No.

(From the Captain's information, the last four columns.)

And we certify as to the correctness and accuracy of our report.
Dated on board Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Salamander," Amoy, December 18, 1852.

(Signed) C. H. SMITH, *Acting Lieutenant*,
D. H. WILDER, *Master*,
WM. OAVEY, *Acting Carpenter*,
} *H.M.S. "Salamander."*

Approved,
(Signed) J. G. ELLMAN, *Commander.*
E. GARDINER FISHBOURNE, *Commander, Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Hermes," and Senior Officer present.*

No. 15.

The Earl of Clarendon to Sir George Bonham.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 24, 1853.

I HAVE had under my consideration the particulars respecting the riot which took place at Amoy between the 21st and 24th of November last, detailed in Dr. Bowring's despatch of the 26th of December; and I have to acquaint you that I entirely approve of Dr. Bowring's conduct in despatching Her Majesty's ship "Hermes" to Amoy, and in sending to that place Mr. Harvey, the Secretary and Registrar in the Superintendency, for the purpose of investigating the causes of the riot.

Mr. Harvey appears to have displayed great judgment in executing the commission which was entrusted to him, and he has made a report which exhibits much ability.

I cannot close this despatch without strongly expressing the disapprobation with which Her Majesty's Government view the conduct of Mr. Syme and other British subjects at Amoy, with reference to the emigration of Chinese coolies, as set forth in the minutes of the inquiry inclosed in Dr. Bowring's despatch. Those persons have brought disgrace on the British name, and have endangered British interests in China.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 16.

Dr. Bowring to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received March 2.)

My Lord, *Hong Kong, January* 5, 1853.

IN reference to my despatch of 24th December, per last mail, by which I expressed my intention of submitting to your Lordship some observations on coolie emigration from this country, I now beg leave to resume a topic to which the sad occurrences at Amoy, not wholly unanticipated by me, have given additional interest.

The coolie emigration may be divided into two categories, that which takes place at the five ports where by Treaty we have a right to trade, and that which is carried on from ports and places where we have no right, and where trading must be deemed a distinct infraction of Article IV of the supplementary Treaty with China.

Vessels lading with coolies may be considered under three classes: British vessels conveying coolies to British colonies; foreign vessels conveying coolies to British colonies; foreign vessels conveying coolies to foreign countries or colonies.

Under each of these divisions I purpose to make a few remarks.

Any considerable inquiry for coolies, any competition for obtaining them, indeed, any demand for a single human being beyond the spontaneous supply of volunteers, will in China lead to abuses. Such are the venality and profligacy of public officers, such the passion for gain among multitudes of the people, that the coolie trade will inevitably be associated with irregularities and cruelties. Let it only be understood that men are wanted and they will be obtained, obtained by collusions, crimpings, frauds, falsehoods, violences, understandings with the Mandarins, and the abominations will of course be maximized where authority is most feeble and the demand most active.

The opium stations were early fixed upon as convenient places for the shipment of coolies. A large force is always there; a system of non-interference has become a usage and almost a necessity. No authority is present to check any amount of misdoings; and Cumsingmoon, the opium station which supplies the Canton demand and that of the districts to the west of Canton, has, next to Amoy, become one of the principal places of shipment. Since the disturbances at Amoy, Namoa, another opium station, has furnished two cargoes of coolies, one for Demerara and the other for Australia, and preparations are making there, I am informed, for the erection of barracoons and for carrying

on the coolie-trade on a very extensive scale. I have reason to know that the great opium houses are somewhat alarmed by the adjacency of these coolie depôts, and that the opium vessels at Namoa are ordered to quit the neighbourhood of these coolie congregations. I cannot conceal from your Lordship my apprehension that the gathering together, under the existing circumstances, of coolies in these remote places, may lead to immense evils, to robbery and bloodshed on a large scale.

As regards shipments from places where trade is absolutely interdicted by Treaty, Her Majesty's Government may have to consider how far the principle laid down in your Lordship's despatch of the 20th October, is to be observed as regards localities. It is true the Chinese do not enforce their own laws as to emigration, and it is quite intelligible that not doing so when they are able, we can hardly be blamed for conveying emigrants to our colonies, and taking steps for their protection and comfort. But as regards shipments of coolies from places where the Chinese authorities are wholly helpless, from places where we have pledged ourselves that Her Majesty's subjects shall not trade, and that British ships shall not load or discharge, shall we, ought we, to extend the opium indulgence to another species of traffic, wholly unprotected by the guarantees which the wealth, position, and high character of the great opium houses offer? As regards British ships loading or discharging at unlawful places, it appears to me that Her Majesty's Government possesses ample and plenary power, should it see fit to exercise it. Then comes the objection so loudly and so constantly heard, "If you prohibit British ships and British merchants, you merely transfer a valuable trade to foreign vessels and foreign adventurers." The argument would justify any profitable abominations permitted by the laws of one nation and prohibited by the laws of another. But if Her Majesty's Government, having Treaties of Amity and Commerce with China, saw fit distinctly to prohibit all trading with illegal places, it would clearly have an absolute right to demand from the Chinese Government that nations having no Treaty whatever should not be allowed to enjoy benefits from which we are excluded; and might it not be a question whether the Chinese Government, in consideration of its own weakness, is not entitled to expect us to assist them in maintaining their authority, in the assertion of the principle that no other nation shall be allowed to enjoy privileges in China which are denied to us? This indeed opens a vast question as to whether the non-observance of the Treaty on the part of the Chinese, be it from ill-will or weakness, may not sanction our seeking other ports than those which are now legally accessible to us. The only Governments in the same position with ourselves, as having Treaties with China, are those of the United States and France. The United States want no coolies, and the Chinese emigration to California is now almost wholly confined to independent emigrants who pay their own passage money, and are in a condition to look to their own arrangements. A French merchant-ship is seldom seen in these seas, and I do not imagine the special interests of either the United States or of France would be any impediment to friendly arrangements, in order to protect the common interests of peace, commerce, and humanity. As regards our own colonies, whether the importation of coolies ought to be permitted from places where it is illegal for Her Majesty's subjects to trade, may be a grave question for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

With respect to the legal ports, Amoy and Canton are at present the only two from whence any supply of coolies can be expected. There can be little doubt if the same state of things had existed in Canton which led to the late disturbances at Amoy, if the people of Canton suspected that foreign merchants employed crimps to inveigle and seduce, or, still worse, to kidnap the inhabitants, that the factories would be burnt down and foreigners exposed to extreme danger. I do not think the shipment of coolies by any means safe from Whampoa, where a cargo has just left for Trinidad (of whose condition the Emigration Agent reports very favourably), but the power of the Mandarins in Canton is great enough to be some security against abuse, and a prohibition would immediately follow any peril to the public peace.

While the premium paid on coolies continues at anything like its present rate, no Consular authority, no interference of any emigration agent, will make the trade anything but one of great irregularity and abuses. Coolies will be seduced by falsehoods—kept by violence; ships will be exposed to great danger from the revolt of deceived coolies, who, unaccompanied by interpreters (for I

am sorry to say there are few instances in which any person is to be found on board the emigrant ships who can state their wants or explain their grievances), have, in a great many instances, subscribed engagements, under the pressure of extreme want, and often in ignorance of their meaning. One of the most common methods of obtaining coolies is to make them some small advance in food, clothes, or money, which being unable to repay, they become pawned to the creditor, who is probably the crimp himself, or some of his agents. I do not believe the foreign coolie merchants are directly cognizant of, or would be willing to authorize, the inevitable iniquities of the system. They examine, or cause to be examined, the physical condition of the men whom the crimps and coolie brokers have gathered together. The profits are large, and no sagacious merchant would jeopardize them by directly sanctioning gross outrages against honour and honesty; but the instruments he is compelled to use are of the vilest character; they are almost wholly Cantonese men (among whom will be always found the vagabonds most notorious for insubordination and recklessness), uncontrolled by the public opinion of the locality, in which they are mostly strangers.

An hour's successful hunt—for they are paid, I am told, at the rate of 3 dollars per man—may give them more profit than they could obtain from a month of honest labour. Even, therefore, as regards British ships bound to British colonies, and departing from legal ports, it appears to me desirable that a rigorous investigation should take place, on the arrival of the emigrants' ship, into the circumstances under which they have been engaged; and I mentioned in my despatch dated the 1st of October, that the house of Turner and Co., which I understand has the Trinidad contract for coolies, had, in apprehension of the revolt of the emigrants, applied to me for military force to be employed against them, should any rising take place on board.

Nothing is, withal, more likely to assist a voluntary future emigration than a knowledge in China of the fact that the emigrants are transferred to countries where justice is strictly administered, rights protected, and wrongs punished. And with a view to this, the return of some Chinese emigrants to their country, who should report favourably of the prospects of agricultural labourers in our colonies, would be of the highest importance. The exportation of Chinese women, unless absolutely bought as slaves, is out of the question; so that nothing but a succession of emigrants will keep up the supply of labour.

If foreign ships convey emigrants to British colonies, it is clear no sufficient protection can be given to the coolies, either before their embarkation or during the outward passage. Interference is a matter of much delicacy and difficulty; for though I have little doubt, were the facts accessible and the proofs at hand, that many of the proceedings in China come under the provisions, and would subject the malfesants to the penalties of the Slave Trade Acts, I cannot shut my eyes to the impracticability—the impossibility rather, of furnishing judicial proofs; and the embarrassments of the question would be greatly augmented by the general worthlessness of Chinese testimony, as my experience leads me to the sad conclusion that the securities for veracity in any of the grades of society in China are weak and few.

But the field where the amount of misery and misdoing in connexion with Chinese emigration will be by far the widest, is where foreign agents and foreign ships are employed in collecting and conveying Chinamen to foreign countries and colonies. There is every reason to fear that iniquities scarcely exceeded by those practised on the African coast and on the African middle passage, have not been wanting. The statements which have reached China of the condition of the coolies in the Guano Islands—the reported sale of coolies in the public market-places of Peru—the deceits practised in order to obtain labourers for the railways of the Isthmus of Darien, are rather subjects of general conversation than of official cognizance. I cannot, however, but think that there may be serious dangers, not yet developed, in these inconsiderate transfers of such multitudes of Chinamen to distant lands. In a conversation with Mr. Wardrop, who has a contract for conveying 8,000 coolies to Cuba, I ventured to ask him whether it had not occurred to the Spanish Government that the settlement of so many thousands of Chinamen in that island, in its present condition, might be an element of no small peril should the spirit of insurrection spread. I reported to your Lordship in my despatch of October 1, some of the arrangements by which the Chinese are kept in a state of discipline and obedience in the

sland of Java; without such arrangement their presence would be a source of habitual anxiety and alarm to the authorities. I am told that Mr. Wardrop has returned to Europe with views somewhat changed as to the facilities with which vast supplies of labour are to be obtained from China; and I suspect Mr. White, now nominated the Government Emigration Agent, and whose primary duty I now conceive to be that of the protection of the coolies, perceives much more difficulty in the honest discharge of his mission than he had before anticipated before the reckless rush of coolie collectors in China had so interfered with that over-supply of agricultural labourers which might have been profitably and even benevolently turned to account.

Whether, or when, matters will revert to a state in which the superfluous labour of China can be safely and properly diverted to the demands of Her Majesty's colonies, must depend upon the development of events. I have thought it my duty to communicate the facts within my knowledge to Her Majesty's Government, hoping that in the painful and often embarrassing position in which Her Majesty's servants are placed in this country, and looking to the immense interests involved in the trade with China, we may be favoured with such instructions for our guidance as the circumstances of the case allow. I understand from Mr. White that he proposes to confine his action to the colony of Hong Kong, where, of course, more ample powers of inspection and control exist than in any portion of the dominions of China.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

No. 17.

Dr. Bowring to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received March 2.)

(Extract.) *Hong Kong, January 6, 1853.*

IN continuation of my despatch dated 27th ultimo, concerning the disastrous events at Amoy, I have now to forward to your Lordship copy of Commander Fishbourne's (of Her Majesty's steamer "Hermes") report to the naval senior officer in China, which has been communicated to me by Captain Massie, and of my acknowledgment thereof. I likewise inclose copy of my letter to Captain Massie respecting the services rendered by Mr. Ley during the investigation at Amoy.

I beg also to transmit copy of my despatch to Mr. Acting-Consul Backhouse, dated 29th December, by which your Lordship will perceive I have expressed a strong opinion as to the impropriety, which I regret to say has become almost habitual in that port, of allowing the merchants to communicate directly with the Chinese functionaries, thus setting aside and superseding that Consular authority which it is of the highest importance to maintain, and through which alone do the Treaties provide for access to the mandarins.

It is only from the report of Mr. Secretary Harvey that I have heard of the claim of 5,000 dollars, put forward by Mr. Vallancey, chief officer of the "Australia," which vessel was taking in coolies at Amoy and afterwards at Namoa; but I have received four several applications from the widow, the mother, and brothers of four persons who were shot by the marines of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Salamander," and who are stated to have taken no part in the disturbances. I forward to your Lordship translations of these four petitions, respecting which I have no communication from Mr. Backhouse, and have therefore come to no determination as to the course I shall take in the matter. But I have instructed Mr. Backhouse, in co-operation with the authorities, to distribute the amount of the fines levied on Messrs. Syme and Cornabé (being 220 dollars) among the families of the sufferers.

Inclosure 1 in No. 17.

Commander Fishbourne to Captain Massie.

Sir, "*Hermes*," *Hong Kong, December* 21, 1852.

IN obedience to your orders, I proceeded to Amoy and complied with his Excellency's expressed wish that I, in conjunction with Mr. F. Harvey, Secretary to Superintendent, should assist Mr. Consul Backhouse in inquiring into the causes of the late disturbances there.

2. After a careful and extended investigation (yet not without the usual obloquy where there is anything to conceal or defend, that it was all on the one side when in reality it was all on the other), I have come to the conclusion that the immediate cause of the disturbance was the illegal visit of Mr. Syme to the police-office, and the general cause the injustice of the coolie emigration as conducted.

3. Our national character has suffered in the estimation of the Chinese; for the written guarantee of Consul or naval captain that the liberty of witnesses should be respected, conveyed no assurance to the Chinese authorities or their employés.

4. Nothing could divest their minds of the idea that we wished to get the police officer and soldiers who were at the police-office when Mr. Syme presented himself, to the Consulate, that we might seize and carry them to Hong Kong; indeed, so great were their apprehensions, that they would not allow myself and the interpreter to visit these witnesses at the colonel's, to take their evidence, and consequently the evidence is one-sided for want of their testimony; yet their statements, as drawn from the report of the Hae-fang, so interlaces with the confession of the defendants, as to leave no doubt as to their substantial correctness, and leaves no grounds for justification of the conduct of the defendants generally: and if the coolie-broker whose evidence was taken before the mandarin previous to his death, the result of his punishment and treatment by the people, together, be also taken, and the fact of his being found in Mr. Syme's house so soon after the riot of the 21st, seems to show the correctness of this statement, and that if he were not actually, he was practically, released by Mr. Syme, thus establishing a connection between the riot of the 21st and 24th, so far from the evidence being one-sided in the sense that some of the merchants and others would say, viz., in its bearing more hard on them than is due, I believe no dispassionate man but will say that it is impossible that an apathetic population more likely to ask, "Am I my brother's keeper? then avenge a brother's wrong," could have been stirred to their very depths, unless still greater wrongs had been done them than appears by the evidence to have been.

5. For some few months the public mind, which has been festering under the accumulated wrongs perpetrated by savage Chinese coolie-brokers, with whom their employers were associated in the Chinese mind, to satisfy the inordinate demand for coolies, was at last brought up to the point of revolt by the illegal interference of Mr. Syme to stay the course of justice undertaken by the authorities at the instance of an indignant and outraged people.

6. Defeated in their legal remedy by the rescue of the obnoxious coolie-broker, who on his escape found his way to the premises of Mr. Syme, when he was found they determined to take the law into their own hands and right themselves.

7. Various meetings were held by the respectable inhabitants, at which attacking the English hongs, the ships, and other extreme measures, were proposed, but all rejected because it would be against their own interest, as the sacking of the Chinese hongs would follow upon that of the English, and though it were not so, their triumph would be short-lived, as steamers would be up from Hong Kong to revenge any attack upon British persons or property; and thus it would appear the navy tends to perpetuate practices at which every right-minded Englishman revolts.

8. Meanwhile the rabble, watching the progress of events, were assembling from the surrounding country to avail themselves of the first opportunity to plunder, seized upon the occasion of the respectable people assembling to demand of Mr. Syme the obnoxious coolie-broker, to make their attack; and in selecting the coolie-shed which offered so little to tempt their cupidity, I cannot

but believe, notwithstanding the opinions which have been given to the contrary, they marked their detestation of the system as conducted, by partially demolishing it and liberating its inmates: there were many in it before the riot, but not one immediately after.

9. On the giving up of the coolie-broker, I am assured the greater part of the respectable portion retired; the rabble, however, were not to be dispersed till after several had been killed and wounded, and though the riot was suppressed, I am informed an unwonted irritability and rudeness still remains.

10. On asking a missionary, a calm disinterested man evidently under a sense of responsibility to speak the truth, very recently about the state of public feeling, he said the irritation had much subsided; but I cannot answer for what is below the surface.

11. Mr. Syme has been fined, as also his clerk, for a breach of treaty, and I cannot but think he ought to be tried for misprision, if he were not prosecuted under the 2nd clause of 6 & 7 Victoria, cap. 98, of the Slave Act; and Mr. Tait's house has been warned against breach of treaty, and against permitting misprision by their servants.

12. Mr. Syme, I understand, is to be ordered to remove his coolie-shed away from the English hong. This I think ought to be done, as it is a nuisance, and as an offence and focus of discontent endangers the lives and properties of British subjects.

13. It is now practically under the protection of the men-of-war; remove it away from British property, and we should have some guarantee against the injustice said to have been perpetrated in it.

14. How far this will succeed in remedying the evils, I cannot say; but I have little hopes, as I find the moral perception of so many in this trade to be so much impaired that they are unable to see they are violating law as well as the commonest moralities.

15. Thus they argue that if they take one of these poor people into their sheds or ships, and feed him for a time, they have a right over him, in virtue of which they may keep him in confinement against his will, and this irrespective of the character of antecedent transactions. Let this claim of theirs be granted, and then they are justified in expatriating them against their will; and they violate neither law nor morality, if they only offer them a contract (fair in their own estimation) to sign previous to sailing: for the evidence goes to show that these contracts are not signed till the coolies are embarked on board the emigrant ship.

16. Admit this right, and the fact of a man not being a free agent at the time of executing a contract does not affect its validity.

17. Strange to say that these gentlemen, though they complain of some of the coolies as being dishonest in leaving their establishments after being fed for a short time, do not hesitate to avail themselves of the circumstances of the dishonesty of some of their neighbours' coolies, by accepting them at once into their establishments, on their being brought there, though they should have their neighbour's mark on them.

18. The impression on my mind from all I could learn of the manner in which the earlier steps are conducted is this.

19. The houses have coolie-brokers, to whom they give so much a-head for each man accepted, and they may employ others; these go out into the country and induce men by various means to come down to Amoy, some by fair promises (in the estimation of some), others by false; few, I venture to say, have had the terms of the contract explained till they have placed themselves under an obligation.

20. These coming to Amoy are taken away from all means of support, and having no means of support for their return, should they so determine, have no alternative but to accept the terms offered or starve. Many of them who come down under these circumstances after examination are found to be physically defective, and are rejected and turned adrift to die in the streets. Mr. Harvey and myself saw one, and one of the officers of this ship saw another, and I was told of several others during our short stay of seven days.

21. It was in vain to argue with these gentlemen, that a moral obligation lay upon them to return these poor creatures to their country, as well as feed the others, and not attempt to hold them by a fictitious claim.

22. On my previous visit to Amoy I saw a man escaping from what I now

learn to have been Mr. Syme's sheds; he was chased by a set of barbarous harpies who seized him by the tail, arms, and legs, as if he had been a wild animal. One savage was about to strike him over the head with a two-handed stick, when I begged Mr. Jackson, who spoke Chinese, to call on him to desist; thus far he did, but he then took deliberate aim for his arm, as if to paralyze his exertions, for he was struggling to escape, but as the others hurried him past, he merely struck him on the back; they then carried him off to Mr. Syme's shed. I do not think there is any approach even to this brutality in the establishments of Mr. Jackson or Messrs. Tait and Co.

23. On the last day of the inquiry, Mr. Syme, as being the only one whose conduct had been impugned, and that had not an opportunity given him of explaining, or producing rebutting evidence, was called up and told the substance of the evidence against him, and asked if he wished to do so; he said not. The evils of his manner of conducting business were then dwelt on—the evil to his own interest; to the trade; the peril to life and property; the fact that the deaths on the 24th arose out of his improper conduct was also dwelt on, and we had hoped with effect: but his defiant bearing in the Consulate Court; his conducting his case as if it were a mob riot case; no softening at the thoughts of the deaths; no serious thoughts that his coolie broker was then in *articulo mortis;* dispelled all such hopes, and left no impression but that life and property would continue insecure; if he did not eventually embroil the two countries, he would effectually destroy all friendly relations between our people and the Chinese at Amoy.

24. I may here answer the argument advanced against any restrictions to prevent the evils complained of, that it would drive the trade into other and less humane hands. If it did, justice demands and our merchants merit it for betraying their trust; but it is most improbable the members of any nation would dare demean themselves in the manner ours have done, since they have no such power as ours have to give them countenance, and therefore no nation could reap the undue profits which ours do.

25. As to the interference of the officers and men of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Salamander," it is quite evident that they did not interfere one minute too soon to stay the progress of general plunder—if nothing worse; and they exercised a forbearance in the use of their fire-arms quite commendable. The Hae-fang complained of the deaths of the men killed in the affray; but I told him it was done in self-defence, and the populace had to blame themselves for attempting to take the law into their own hands, since the Treaties had made provision for the redress of all grievances.

26. I visited Namoa, or more properly the anchorage in the Shan-tow or Swa-tow river; but there were no vessels except the opium vessels; two, however, had been there, and they took about 500 coolies.

27. I was informed by Mr. Gerard, of Dent and Co.'s house, that there were no coolie brokers; that the coolies flock down in numbers to go, with the consent of the mandarins; and that it was necessary to have coolie sheds. He further said, that frequently in his walks he was accosted by men anxious to emigrate, and indeed we had not arrived many minutes when two men came off and offered themselves to us.

28. They appeared to be a much better description of people, and Captain Gerard said there was not nearly so much disease amongst them as amongst those at Amoy, and that they were quite astonished at the amount of provisions provided for them.

29. I have to thank Mr. Thomas J. Ley, my clerk, for assistance in taking the minutes, and take this opportunity of stating that his conduct has always been most exemplary and efficient.

30. Her Majesty's steam-sloop has been under steam 111 hours, and used 105 tons of coal and 14½ of fire-wood.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. GARDINER FISHBOURNE.

Commander Fishbourne to Captain Massie.

Sir, *"Hermes," Amoy, December* 15, 1852.

YESTERDAY, I, accompanied by Mr. Sinclair, the interpreter to the Consulate at Amoy, called on the Hae-fang at the request of his Excellency the Superintendent of Trade, to assure him that Her Majesty's Government were anxious to put a stop to those illegal acts of British subjects that had, or were said to have, led to the unseemly conflicts of the 21st and 24th of November last.

He received me with every mark of respect, and begged to assure me that our Government could not be more anxious for peace and amity than his was; but that these conflicts arose from the improper conduct of individuals of our nation, and expressed a wish that they might be restrained, and complained of the conduct of Mr. Syme in, as he alleged, rescuing a coolie broker from the Chinese authorities, who was under punishment for breach of Chinese law, as that which led to the disturbances of the 21st and 24th; and further, of the conduct of Messrs. Syme and Tait in sending cards to him, or other Chinese authorities, demanding the release of coolie brokers, as their servants, when in reality they were not their servants, but Chinese under punishment by their own authorities for violation of law: I said that such conduct occurring a second time was his own fault, since had he applied to the Consul on the first occasion, as it was contrary to an express provision of the existing Treaties, they would have been punished.

I asked to see the coolie broker who was said to have been rescued by Mr. Syme, with a view to elicit something concerning the riot of the 21st and 24th; but on his being produced he was so frightened, and in such a miserably emaciated condition from the punishment he had received from the authorities and the ill treatment of the populace, I did not deem it useful, and scarcely practicable, to cross-question him.

I told him it would be proper that he should send the police mandarin and the soldiers that were present on the occasion of Mr. Syme's visit, to the Consulate to give evidence; he stated that he was fully aware of the propriety, but that as they were under the military mandarin, he could only apply to him to have them sent.

This morning he sent to the Consulate to say that the military mandarin could not comply with the request, as the officer and the soldiers were away from Amoy.

I then asked him if it were not possible for him to direct a minor mandarin to visit the coolie sheds and ships, to ascertain if any were in confinement or being expatriated against their will; he said, certainly not, as to regulate would be to recognize the propriety of emigration, which was contrary to Chinese law, and asked that our merchants should be prevented from encouraging more to emigrate: I said that we did not prevent men from emigrating from our country if they were so disposed, and that we could not prevent Chinese from doing so; all we could do would be, to prevent English subjects from sending Chinese subjects out of their country against their will, but that to do this effectually we must be informed by the Chinese authorities of any such circumstance.

He complained of the lives of four innocent men being taken; I said this was an accident, as respected one or two, but our people were not responsible since the shots were fired in self-defence against a mob who had met for an illegal purpose, who were met to take the law into their own hands, when they should have applied to their authorities to apply to our Consul, who would have taken steps to have the evil they complained of remedied.

He further said, that they were determined to put a stop to emigration, and would punish severely any coolie broker found enticing the people away.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. GARDINER FISHBOURNE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 17.

Dr. Bowring to Captain Massie.

Sir, *Hong Kong, December* 30, 1852.

I HAVE to thank you for a copy of Commander Fishbourne's report to you on the distressing occurrences which have taken place at Amoy, and which led to the visit of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Hermes" to that port.

It is with much satisfaction that I send to you the inclosed extract from Mr. Secretary Harvey's report to me, bearing testimony to the valuable services rendered by Commander Fishbourne on this occasion, and I beg you to convey to that officer an expression of the high sense I entertain of these services and of the co-operation which his zeal and ability brought to this painful investigation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

Inclosure 3 in No. 17.

Dr. Bowring to Captain Massie.

Sir, *Hong Kong, December* 29, 1852.

I HAVE much pleasure in conveying to you extract of the report of Mr. Secretary Harvey, expressing a strong sense of the services rendered by Mr. Ley, of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Hermes," during the laborious inquiry into the disastrous occurrences which took place at Amoy, and generally into the subject of coolie emigration. I shall be gratified by your conveying to Mr. Ley the expression of my thanks, and if you think his services entitle him to be mentioned in your official despatches.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

Inclosure 4 in No. 17.

Dr. Bowring to Vice-Consul Backhouse.

Sir, *Hong Kong, December* 29, 1852.

I HAVE delayed answering your despatch dated 18th instant, reporting the proceedings against Mr. Syme and Mr. Cornabé, until I could read the whole of the depositions and give the subject, which has been to me one of much anxiety and distress, such mature consideration as would enable me to lay down rules for your future conduct in the painful and very responsible situation you now occupy. As regards the proceedings of the Consular Court, I confirm the sentence you have pronounced, and the fines inflicted of 200 dollars on Mr. Syme and 20 dollars on Mr. Cornabé.

It appears to me that one of the primary sources of mischief, and of the abuses which have taken place, is traceable to the fact that merchants have been in the habit of disregarding and superseding your authority, and have established independently of the Consulate direct intercourse with the mandarins. I beg your attention to the distinct and unmistakeable provision of Article XIII of the General Regulations of Trade, which I insert at length:

"Whenever a British subject has reason to complain of a Chinese, he must first proceed to the Consulate and state his grievance; the Consul will thereupon inquire into the merits of the case, and do his utmost to arrange it amicably. In like manner if a Chinese have reason to complain of a British subject, he shall no less listen to his complaint, and endeavour to settle it in a friendly manner. If an English merchant have occasion to address the Chinese authorities, he shall send such address through the Consul, who will see that the language is becoming; and, if otherwise, will direct it to be changed, or will refuse to convey the address. If unfortunately any disputes take place of such a nature that the Consul cannot arrange them amicably, then he shall request the

assistance of a Chinese officer, that they may together examine into the merits of the case, and decide it equitably. Regarding the punishment of English criminals, the English Government will enact the laws necessary to attain that end, and the Consul will be empowered to put them in force; and regarding the punishment of Chinese criminals, these will be tried and punished by their own laws, in the way provided for by the correspondence which took place at Nankin after the concluding of the peace."

I desire therefore that you should request the Chinese authorities, if, in disregard and defiance of this Article, British subjects shall trouble them with their applications, to refer such applicants to you, as alone entitled to be the channel of communication; and you will, moreover, call the attention of the British community to the provisions of Article XIII, which you are required strictly to enforce by punishing its infraction.

As regards your right to abstract the subjects of China from the authority of their own tribunals and authorities, I beg to refer you to the circular of Sir George Bonham, dated 11th April, 1850, which conveys distinct instructions for your guidance.

It has been decided by the Crown lawyers that we have no right to interfere with the legal authority which the Chinese Government exercises over its own subjects; but if any case should occur in which a Chinese subject, having committed no offence, should be demanded of you for purposes purely vexatious, and you should decline to deliver him up when demanded by the Chinese authorities, you will then, in justification of your deviation from the general principles, report the circumstance in detail to me, and state to the Chinese officials that you have done so; but you are to exercise extreme caution in swerving from the rule laid down.

It has come to my knowledge (not officially) that assaults, sometimes of a brutal character, have been committed upon Chinese subjects by subjects of Her Britannic Majesty. If you shall have knowledge of such misdoings, they must not be passed over unnoticed; for if, on the one hand, we call upon the Chinese authorities to punish their people for their offences against British persons and property, it is equally our duty to see that no outrages committed upon the subjects of China go unpunished, of which proper evidence is brought before the Consulates; and as you are armed with the powers of summary jurisdiction, you have the means of enforcing the obligations of Treaties in this particular, and causing the law to be respected.

I have received four petitions from Amoy, calling on my interference in the case of innocent persons who lost their lives from the firing of the marines on the 24th November,—two from brothers, one from the widow, the fourth from the mother of persons shot.

The petitioners all state that they have applied to you for redress; but as this very grave matter is not referred to in your despatches, I wait the receipt of such information as you may have to communicate. I am also informed by Mr. Secretary Harvey that a British subject has called upon your interference to demand a large sum from the Chinese authorities on account of injuries done him by the mob, on which I am also without advices from you.

With reference to the fines of 200 dollars and 20 dollars, levied on Mr. Syme and Mr. Cornabé, you will, in consultation with the Chinese authorities as to the repartition, distribute the amount among the families of any innocent persons who have suffered from the unfortunate events with which the infliction of those fines is associated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

Inclosure 5 in No. 17.

Petition of Lae Chinse.

PETITION of Lae Chinse, a Chinese woman, resident at Amoy, in the matter of her husband, causelessly implicated and murdered.

There is here a native of Canton, one Loo Kwanghung, who, originally a menial of the lowest class, has raised himself by his vile and selfish conduct to considerable wealth, and who avails himself of his riches and influence to an

extent unparalleled. This man came to Amoy as a purchaser of human beings on account of your honourable merchants the Ho-ke store (Messrs. Syme and Co.), with a view to shipping them to England for mercenary purposes. On the 10th day of the 10th month of this year (November 21st), this trade in men became the occasion of a disturbance, and Loo-kwang-hung, by releasing a broker, threw the whole town into such a ferment that the business of the place was at a standstill for three whole days. On the 13th day (November 24th), while petitioner's husband, Lae Ho, was engaged in carrying some fuel to a relative, a discharge of fire-arms suddenly took place from Messrs. Syme and Co.'s hong, which killed four men, her husband included, two iron bullets having entered and pierced his throat and left loin, so that he died instantly. Information was lodged with the authorities forthwith, whereupon the Sub-Prefect proceeded in concert with your Honourable Consul to make examination, and found the fact to be as reported, notwithstanding which nothing has up to this date been done by way of redress.

The petitioner, in her pitiably widowed condition, has therefore no resource left her but hastily to detail her case, and with tears to invoke his British Excellency, and entreat him in justice to call upon the Viceroy of Fuhkien and Chekeang to bring the guilty parties to trial and punishment; to pray him likewise, in condescending pity to a human being, though to him a foreigner, and in gracious consideration of the innocence of the unfortunate sufferer, to cause the said Loo-kwang-hung to be searched for at and summoned out of Messrs. Syme and Co.'s store, to stand his trial and pay the lawful penalty.

The petitioner feels bound further to state, that she yesterday addressed a petition of complaint to your Honourable Consul, but has received nothing in reply thereto.

Heenfung, 2*nd year*, 11*th month*, — *day*.
(*December* 1852.)

True translation,
(Signed) W. H. MEDHURST,
Chinese Secretary.

Inclosure 6 in No. 17.

Petition of Kwo Chin She.

THE petitioner, Kwo Chin She, a Chinese woman, living at Amoy,—in the case of an innocent person being deprived of life through the means of an English merchant, and traitors belonging to Canton,—prays that the offenders may be punished, and forfeit taken for the lost life.

The Canton traitor, named A-gan, otherwise Loo-kwang-hung, still employed in the Ho-ke hong (Messrs. Syme and Co.'s), having entered into combination with the kidnapping brokers Lin Hwan and others, for the purpose of treacherously enticing away harmless people, imposing upon the English merchants, in consequence of which it occurred that last month the trade was stopped for three days; on the 13th day of the said month the friends and relatives of the kidnapped people came together in a mass, and clamorously demanded their deliverance. Who could have supposed that thereupon Loo-kwang-hung and the others would head a party of English soldiers, together with their own accomplices in the house, and fire volleys of musketry? Your petitioner's son, Kwo Ching, was passing at the back of the Ho-ke hong, when he was struck by shot and killed. Your petitioner having made her complaint, the Sub-Prefect (magistrate of Amoy) communicated with the English Consul, and they together examined the wounds; but unless the perpetrators of the act are punished, your petitioner being in poverty, her son shot without cause, and a widow, will have none on whom to depend for support; she therefore details the circumstances of the case, and with tears calls upon the English Great Officer, praying that he will address the Governor-General of Canton and Fuhkien, in order that the guilty may be brought to justice; and the people of foreign countries being equally with those of our own, the offspring of heaven, that he will compel the English merchants to deliver up Loo-kwang-hung and the others, that according

to law, they may give forfeit for the lost life. Thus your Excellency's grace will be manifested, with respect equally to the living and the dead. She accordingly prays.

A true translation,
(Signed) M. C. MORRISON.

Inclosure 7 in No. 17.

Petition of Le Hien.

THE petitioner, Le-hien, a Chinese subject, in the grave matter of a death caused by gun-shot, prays that stringent measures may be taken to accord justice, and that the due forfeit may be given for the lost life.

It having happened that certain brokers employed by the foreign hongs Teh-ke and Ho-ke (Tait and Co., and Syme and Co.), namely, Loo-kwang-hung and his nephew Loo-chang-piao, Wang-wei-chang, Lin-kin-toan, Lew-shih-new, and others, had entered into combination with the English merchant Syme, for the purpose of kidnapping and selling men in order to enrich themselves, on the 13th day of the last month, through the conduct of the broker Lin-hwan, a great disturbance was produced, and volleys of musketry were fired by the English soldiers, when your petitioner's brother, Le-ko, an innocent person, was struck and killed, a ball having entered his left side, passing downwards. Having represented the case, the Sub-Prefect (magistrate of Amoy) communicated with the English Vice-Consul, and those officers proceeded together to examine and identify the body.

In this grave matter in which the death of a man is concerned, whereby his children are deprived of their parent, if the perpetrators of the offence are not brought to justice the laws will be set at nought. It is only for your petitioner to detail the circumstances and reverently pray that your Excellency, the British Great Officer, will address the Governor-General of Fuhkien and Che-kiang, that he may cause Loo-kwang-hung, Loo-chang-piao and the rest to be brought before his tribunal, and punish them for their crime, according to the laws. Thus dead and living will be tranquillized. Your petitioner so prays.

Heenfung, 2nd year, 11th month. (*December* 1852.)

A true translation,
(Signed) M. C. MORRISON.

Inclosure 8 in No. 17.

Petition of Chin Sha.

PETITION of Chin Sha, a native of Amoy in the Empire of China, praying for lawful redress in the matter of certain Canton vagabonds protected by British merchants, and unoffending persons killed by the discharge of fire-arms.

The petitioner had a brother named Chin-keang, who supported himself in business at Amoy. On the 10th day of the 10th month (21st of November) the following occurrence took place; a disturbance had arisen in consequence of the proceedings of two natives of Canton, Loo-kwang-hung and his brother Loo-chang-peaon, who are in the employ of Messrs. Syme and Co., a British firm, as contractors for the purchase of human beings with a view to their shipment to England for mercenary purposes: (this is a trade which commenced in the first instance with properly understood bargains agreed to by all parties concerned, but has lately been marked by a system of intimidation and abduction, carried to the length in some instances of plunder and forcible detention). The streets being in a state of ferment, the gentry and mercantile body petitioned the authorities to apprehend a broker named Lin-hwan and others. Loo-kwang-hung, relying upon his unbounded influence, proceeded openly to require the person of the b oker that he might set him at liberty, whereupon the whole town stopped business for three days.

On the 13th day (24th of November), while the relatives of the abducted parties were each striving to be foremost in the demand for the production of the broker, and causing a great uproar by reason of their vehemence, the said Loo-kwang-hung by his misrepresentations persuaded your honourable merchants into the belief that the mob were collecting for the purpose of plunder, in consequence of which a volley of musketry was fired which killed four men, the petitioner's brother included, an iron bullet having entered the right side of his back, and struck him dead. Complaint was lodged forthwith with the authorities, and the Sub-Prefect thereupon proceeded in concert with your Honourable Consul to hold an inquest, the result of which was as above related; nothing, however, has since been done towards the punishment of the parties, although a full half month has elapsed.

Happily a convenient opportunity offers for entreating your Excellency to state the case fairly and equitably to the Viceroy of Fuhkien and Chekeang, and to cause the said Loo-kwang-hung and Loo-chang-peaon to be delivered over to the Viceroy to stand their trial and pay the lawful penalty, to the comfort and quiet of both the living and the dead.

On the 5th day of this month (December 15th) the petitioner addressed your Honourable Vice-Consul on the subject, but he has not received any reply to his application; he begs therefore that directions may graciously be given to grant him the redress he requires.

Heenfung, 2nd year, 11th month, — day.
(*December* —, 1852.)

True translation,
(Signed) W. H. MEDHURST,
Chinese Secretary.

No. 18.

Dr. Bowring to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(*Received March* 2.)

(Extract.) *Hong Kong, January* 10, 1853.

I HEAR from good authority that Mr. Tait, who is the largest shipper of coolies from Amoy, and the Consul for several nations, has erected barracoons on the Chinese continent at Swa-Tow, near Namoa, and that he is collecting coolies there, having come to an understanding with the local mandarins to allow them one tael, 6*s.* 8*d.*, per head for every coolie shipped.

I think it desirable that Her Majesty's Government should be informed of these infractions of Treaty obligations.

No. 19.

Dr. Bowring to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(*Received March* 15.)

My Lord, *Hong Kong, January* 18, 1853.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of an interesting despatch dated 11th instant, with its inclosures, from Mr. Officiating-Consul Backhouse, on the subject of coolie emigration from Amoy. I cannot doubt that the mission of Her Majesty's steamer "Hermes," and the investigation of Mr. Secretary Harvey and Commander Fishbourne, have had the happy effect of checking abuses, restoring the public tranquillity, and will tend to the security and extension of the legitimate trade of that important port.

Your Lordship will be prepared by my previous despatches on the subject to consider whether there should be any, or what, interference with a trade which seems, like the opium trade, gradually shifting to places and ports where trading is prohibited by Treaty, where it is placed beyond the reach of official control, and where no doubt the pressure of demand will bring with it the abuses of irregular and fraudulent supply.

I beg to inclose copy of the reply which I have sent to Mr. Acting-Consul Backhouse's despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 19.

Acting-Consul Backhouse to Dr. Bowring.

Sir, *Amoy, January* 11, 1853.

IN continuation of my despatches of the 20th, and 30th, and 27th of November last respectively, relative to coolie emigration and the disturbances arising therefrom, I have now the honour to report to your Excellency that affairs at this port have entirely resumed their former peaceful aspect, and that the foreign residents can, as heretofore, move amongst the native population without danger of molestation or insult.

This may partly be attributable to the main cause of excitement having itself in a great measure disappeared, as well as to the inoffensive disposition of the inhabitants, who were aroused to a display of anger and indignation at the hardships to which they were undoubtedly submitted.

From the inclosed Table, it will be seen that from the date of the late disturbance, November 21st, to the end of the year, only three vessels left this harbour with coolies, and their complement was complete, or very nearly so, when the outbreak occurred, while four have proceeded to Namoa to ship them there. Indeed, scarcely a single coolie is now to be obtained at this place, and I have reason to believe that the local authorities, although they have not moved officially in the matter, have taken means to deter the brokers, by fear of punishment, from the continuance of their malpractices.

There is not at this moment, I believe, one vessel in the harbour loading with coolies, but there are two Spanish and one English vessels which will shortly go to Namoa for that purpose; and there, I understand, coolies are to be obtained in abundance and without any difficulty. At Namoa, therefore, I have little doubt that this traffic will in future be carried on, unless the distrust and animosity of the people are excited by practices similar to those which were adopted at this port.

Amoy still furnishes a few emigrants to Singapore and Sydney, to which places many would flock, of their own accord, were they sure of obtaining a passage to the port for which they ship, the affluence of their countrymen who return hither from those places, and the favourable reports which they circulate, being a sufficient inducement for the poor labourer who can hardly earn a livelihood at home to try the change. A vessel has this day cleared for Singapore, having, besides her cargo, a hundred such passengers on board.

Hitherto the collecting of coolies, or emigrants, as they are termed, has been left entirely in the hands of brokers, who, their sole aim being to enrich themselves, have adopted means the most unscrupulous to that end. Their profits depending upon the numbers procured, they have not failed to do their utmost, by false promises and in other ways, which have at least afforded good foundation for many of the rumours on the subject, to secure as many as possible, and then appropriate to themselves, on the score of defraying expenses, the money, 6 dollars each, which is given to the coolies, as well as a further allowance of 2 dollars per head, given for the purpose of providing proper clothing, while the emigrants learn, perhaps after the vessel is under weigh, that Havana or Demerara is their destination, instead of Singapore or Sydney, as they had been led to suppose.

There is little wonder, then, that mutiny and outrage has been the result, for under such circumstances even the most peaceable and forbearing will be excited to resistance and the endeavour to right their own wrongs; but it is to be hoped that the late example of the errors of the present system, aided by the suggestions of an experienced emigration agent, may tend to the establishment of a better, which shall be to the advantage of all parties concerned.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. BACKHOUSE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 19.

A TABLE showing the amount of Coolie Emigration from the Port of Amoy between October 12 and December 31, 1852.

Vessel's Name.	Tonnage.	Consignees.	No. of Superficial Feet.	No. of Coolies.	Space for each man.	Quantity of Water.	* Rice.	* Beef, Fish, or Pork, alternately.	Where bound.	Average length of passage.	Date of Departure.
					ft.	gallons.	each man.	each man.		days.	
Gertrude	605	Syme, Muir, and Co. ..	3,605	350	10·30	49,000	1⅓ lb. per diem	½ lb. per diem.	Havana	137	Oct. 12
Blenheim	808	Tait and Co.	4,721	442	10·68	45,000	1⅔ „	do.	Ditto	137	23
Samuel Boddington ..	669	Ditto	4,144	352	11·76	40,000	1⅔ „	do.	Demerara ..	137	Nov. 24
Royal Saxon	510	R. Jackson	3,136	330	9·50	24,000	1⅓ „	do.	Sydney	60	25
Lady Amhurst	446	Syme, Muir, and Co. ..	3,080	275	11·20	38,000	1⅔ „	do.	Havana	137	29

* The above vessels have further been sufficiently supplied with stores of every description, such as potatoes, sugar, oil, tobacco, tea, sulphur, vinegar, &c.

The under-mentioned vessels have proceeded during the above period to Namoa, for the purpose of shipping Coolies at that port.

Vessel's Name.	Tonnage.	Consignees.	Where bound.	Date of Departure.
Inchinnan	565	Tait and Co. ..	Namoa	November 12
Eleanor Lancaster	480	Ditto	Ditto	„ 19
Australia	1,170	Ditto	Ditto	December 6
Sir Thomas Gresham ..	593	Ditto	Ditto	„ 20

(Signed) J. BACKHOUSE, *Vice-Consul in charge.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 19.

Dr. Bowring to Acting-Consul Backhouse.

Sir, *Hong Kong, January* 18, 1853.

I HAVE received your despatch, dated 11th instant, on the subject of coolie emigration, and am glad to find that there is a restoration of the public tranquillity, and a prospect that the abuses which have been associated with the collection and shipment of emigrants at Amoy will be checked for the future.

You will continue to convey to the Superintendency such information as you can collect on this subject. Her Majesty's Government will be duly informed of what is taking place.

I observe that the emigrant vessels are now proceeding to Namoa. You are aware, no doubt, that Namoa is a port at which Her Majesty's subjects are prohibited from trading, both by Treaty and by Her Majesty's Order in Council of 24th February, 1843, of which I inclose you a copy. You will take especial care, therefore, in no way to sanction or to promise protection to any proceedings of an illegal character; and though, until instructions are received from home, I do not deem it necessary to request your official interference in order to prevent the shipment of coolies from interdicted and illegal ports, you will take care to avoid any steps which may serve to encourage the very questionable proceedings with which the subjects of Her Majesty have been concerned in this matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

No. 20.

The Earl of Clarendon to Sir George Bonham.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, March* 30, 1853.

I HAVE received Dr. Bowring's despatch of the 6th of January, inclosing Commander Fishbourne's Report of his visit to Amoy, and other papers upon the subject of the disturbance which occurred at that place in November last in connection with the emigration of Chinese coolies.

I have already apprized the Board of Admiralty of Mr. Harvey's acknowledgment of the valuable assistance afforded to him by Commander Fishbourne and Mr. Ley in carrying out the instructions with which he was sent to Amoy; and in addition to the approval which I signified to you in my despatch of the 24th of February, of Dr. Bowring's conduct in despatching Mr. Harvey to Amoy, and of Mr. Harvey's proceedings at that place, I have now to acquaint you that I approve of Dr. Bowring having instructed Mr. Vice-Consul Backhouse to take steps for putting a stop to the illegal and very mischievous practice which has been suffered to prevail at Amoy, of direct communication without the intervention of the Consulate between British merchants and the Chinese authorities.

No. 21.

Dr. Bowring to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received April 2.)

My Lord, *Hong Kong, February* 7, 1853.

REFERRING to my despatch of the 14th ultimo, on the subject of coolie emigration from China, in which I called your Lordship's attention to the position of British ships and British subjects carrying on this trade from ports and places where trade is interdicted by Her Majesty's Orders in Council, and by Treaties with the Chinese Government; I beg to inclose copy of a despatch, dated 3rd instant, from Mr. Officiating-Consul Backhouse, as exhibiting some new questions and embarrassments growing out of the existing state of things; and though the settlement of the misunderstanding between the captain and the crew of the "Medina," to which the despatch refers, was perhaps on the whole as satisfactory as could have been anticipated, there can be no doubt that very

many difficulties will continue to present themselves in connection with the emigration of hired labourers from China.

I understand the coolie trade is stopped at Amoy. The interference of the mandarins; the state of public opinion; the difficulty of finding emigrants; all growing out of the abuses to which I have so often referred, have for the present put an end to the export of coolies. But Namoa and its neighbourhood is become the point of collection and shipment; and Mr. Tait, the principal shipper, has, I understand, directed the removal to Namoa of his receiving-ship, the "Emigrant," of 599 tons burden, employed for the reception and safe keeping of coolies intended for exportation. I beg to repeat that Mr. Tait, a British subject, is Spanish, Dutch, and Portuguese Consul at Amoy.

The United States Commodore informs me that he has directed the United States' flag to be removed from the house of Syme, Muir, and Co., of Amoy, in consequence of their having been engaged in coolie shipments; a gentleman connected with their house being the Acting United States Consul there.

I observe that the "Clarendon," of whose satisfactory state a report was made to me both by the Emigration Agent and the Acting Consul at Canton, and which left Whampoa for Trinidad on the 30th December, put into Singapore on the 12th January for a supply of wood and water.

Mr. Jackson is now here who provided the "Spartan" with coolies for Australia. They have risen upon the captain and crew, killed the mate, and were escorted into Singapore on the 22nd ultimo. Mr. Jackson informs me that he took every precaution against irregularities and frauds, against which he says it is impossible to guard. The agent for Syme, Muir, and Co., here, says they have abandoned the coolie trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Acting-Consul Backhouse to Dr. Bowring.

Sir, *Amoy, February* 3, 1853.

I HAVE the honour to make the following report to your Excellency of the circumstances of a case which for some days past has occupied my attention. It is now, I trust, finally settled, and I hope in a manner that will meet with your Excellency's approval.

On the 17th ultimo, the British ship "Medina," Sandford, master, having complied with all the regulations of the port, received her papers from this Consulate, and cleared out with the purpose of proceeding to Namoa, there to ship coolies for Havana; a practice which, I have before had the honour of stating, has of late become general. But on the captain's returning on board his vessel, the crew, or the majority of them, refused to obey his orders to heave up the anchor; upon which he applied to Commander Ellman, of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Salamander," for assistance, and an officer, Lieutenant Smith, was sent on board the "Medina" to inquire into the matter. Having summoned the men before him, Lieutenant Smith examined each, separately, as to his grounds for refusing to proceed to sea, and the general complaint was, that the ship was short-handed; and such Lieutenant Smith considered to be the case. Captain Sandford therefore exerted himself to the utmost to supply the deficiency, and in the course of a few days obtained two or three English sailors and about nine or ten Lascars. The ship being now sufficiently manned, he again prepared to weigh anchor, and gave the necessary orders, which again the crew refused to obey. He thereupon laid a complaint against them at the Consulate for disobedience of orders. I accordingly convened a Court, for the 25th ultimo, requesting the attendance of Commander Ellman and the master of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Salamander," and a resident British merchant, to sit as assessors.

The general defence of the crew now was, that they had heard the ship was to carry coolies from Namoa to Havana, and in such a case they believed

their lives to be in danger. One or two of their number further endeavoured to establish, as an excuse for their conduct, a charge of cruelty on the part of the captain, but this they entirely failed to substantiate.

That from the tragedies which have been enacted, during the last few years, on board of vessels carrying coolies, they had some ground for their fears, is indisputable; at the same time it cannot be denied that they adopted an unjustifiable method of showing their unwillingness to proceed on such a voyage. The captain of the "Medina," however, having admitted that his object was to proceed to Namoa for the purpose of there shipping coolies, in itself an illegal act as being in contravention of the Treaties, and it transpiring, moreover, in the course of the evidence, that he had in some instances neglected to comply with the regulations for the guidance of shipmasters, and further that he had in a certain measure excited the insubordination of his crew by his own act, in endeavouring in the first instance to carry the ship to sea without a proper complement of men, it was decided, upon mature consideration, to dismiss the case, the men being warned to return to their duty, and the master being warned that in proceeding to Namoa, he subjected his vessel to the risk of confiscation by the Chinese authorities. In this decision of the Court the assessors unanimously concurred.

The men, now relieved of the charge against them, preferred their objection to proceed on the voyage for the last-mentioned reason, namely, that they considered their lives would be in danger. It was evident that they could not be discharged in Amoy, to the indefinite detention of the ship in the harbour, and the great loss to all concerned; but the agents, who had already sent to Hong Kong for another crew, undertook, on their working the vessel to Namoa, to provide them with a passage thence to Hong Kong. But presuming on the consideration that had been shown them, the men still persisted in refusing to return to their duty, urging that, once at sea, they were at the mercy of the captain, in whose promise they had no confidence; and that even should they be sent to Hong Kong, the captain might and in all probability would defraud them of their wages, for the payment of which they had no security. It being explained to them, with much pains, that they were no longer dependent upon the captain, but upon the agents of the vessel, against whom, if they were wronged they could claim redress, they urged fears, as puerile as groundless, that their lives might be in danger from the resentment of the captain, which they had incurred.

It was now evident that further reasoning was vain, and they were ordered on board their ship, a party of men from the "Salamander" being sent to get the vessel under weigh. The same evening, Saturday the 29th, they, to the number of seventeen, re-appeared at the Consulate, asking shelter, and, though otherwise orderly, refusing even to return on board. I allowed them the use of the prison for the night, and they remained there during the whole of the next day (Sunday) and the next night. On Monday morning early I despatched a request to Commander Ellman to furnish a party of marines to convey them on board of the "Medina," in charge of whom they were in the course of the forenoon removed.

Yesterday morning (Tuesday, the 2nd instant) they again returned to the Consulate, and expressed their willingness to work the vessel as far as the Straits of Namoa, could they be assured of their wages and of being provided with a passage thence to Hong Kong. I thereupon deemed it expedient to call upon the captain to render an account of the wages due to each man, and to draw bills upon the owner of the vessel for the various amounts; these, with the men's register tickets to be deposited in my hands, and giving them their wages bills, which would place it in their power immediately to desert the ship. Each man has been furnished with an account showing the balance of wages due to him, the bills for which, as well as their tickets, it is my purpose to forward to the Harbour Master in Hong Kong, by the first opportunity, from whom they will receive them on reaching that port. This has been explained to them, and they have been furnished with a letter to the Harbour Master on the subject.

The "Medina," I believe, will sail from Amoy to-night.

Trusting to find that your Excellency approves of my proceedings in this matter,

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. BACKHOUSE.

No. 22.

Sir George Bonham to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received April 20.)

My Lord, *Hong Kong, March 7,* 1853.

IN continuation of Dr. Bowring's last despatch on the question of coolie emigration at Amoy, dated 7th ultimo, and in order to render the series of papers connected with this topic as complete as possible, I beg to submit for your Lordship's perusal copy of a despatch from Mr. Backhouse in reply to Dr. Bowring's communication approving of the fines inflicted on Messrs. Syme and Cornabé, which formed inclosure No. 4 in my despatch of 6th January last, to your Lordship's address.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. G. BONHAM.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Acting-Consul Backhouse to Dr. Bowring.

Sir, *Amoy, February* 16, 1853.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of December 29, 1852, confirming the sentence of a Consular Court, and the fines inflicted upon Messrs. Syme and Cornabé for a breach of the 13th Article of the General Regulations of Trade, as reported in my despatch of December 18 last.

In accordance with your Excellency's instructions I at once issued a circular, calling the attention of the British community to the provisions of the regulation in question, of which a copy was annexed, as well as an extract from your Excellency's despatch, wherein I am desired to request the Chinese authorities to receive no direct applications from British subjects, in disregard of the stipulations of the 13th Article, which I am required to enforce by the punishment of its infraction. This step, I trust, will be sufficient to prevent a recurrence of the offence for which Messrs. Syme and Cornabé were fined.

In the same despatch your Excellency is pleased to inform me that you have received four petitions from relatives of innocent persons who lost their lives from the firing of the marines on the 24th of November, all of which petitioners state that they had applied to me for redress. As these petitions were not forwarded to your Excellency through my hands, the only authorized method of which I am aware, I am of course unable to say whether they are from the persons who petitioned me on the same subject, although it is most probable that such is the case. In reply to your Excellency's observation I have to state, that I was not of opinion that the matter was of a nature to require a reference to Hong Kong. I informed the petitioners that supposing the innocence of the sufferers, their fate, however much to be lamented, was one for which Her Majesty's Government could in no way be held responsible; and that, if not partakers in the disturbance, their own temerity was alone to blame, in remaining spectators of an affray in which armed parties were opposed to each other, and when they must have been sensible of the danger which they incurred. And here I deemed the question as disposed of, for the petitioners expressed no desire for a further reference to your Excellency, and I was not myself disposed to recommend their case, being far from convinced of the innocence of those who suffered; indeed, as they must have been in the neighbourhood of the marines, who, it will be remembered, only fired when the same became absolutely necessary for the protection of their own lives as well as the property which they were placed to guard, the probabilities are that they were amongst the foremost of the rioters: but even granting that they took no active part, yet they formed part of the mob whose aggressions it was necessary to repel, and were present at their own risk. In this view I believe I am supported by the laws of our own country under similar circumstances.

On receipt, however, of your Excellency's instructions on the subject, I immediately requested the co-operation of the Chinese authorities in the distri-

bution, amongst those whose cases might be deemed worthy of consideration, of the amount of the fines imposed upon Mr. Syme and Mr. Cornabé, namely 220 dollars; but this being the season of the Chinese New Year, I have as yet received no reply. When the distribution of the money has taken place, I shall have the honour of reporting the same.

Your Excellency further observes in the despatch under acknowledgment, that you have been informed by Mr. Secretary Harvey that a British subject has called upon my interference to demand a large sum from the Chinese authorities, on account of injuries done him by the mob, but that you are without advices from me on the subject.

I presume the case referred to by your Excellency is that of Mr. Vallancey, chief mate of the British ship "Australia," who on the 21st of November last, while passing a police-office (the same I believe at which Mr. Syme had demanded the release of his servant), was attacked by men at the gate, supposed to be soldiers, and received some serious hurt. On his behalf the agents of the vessel have made a claim for compensation to the amount of 5,000 dollars; but considering this claim to be exorbitant I replied to that effect, at the same time stating that I should be willing to support any more reasonable demand, and I have consequently delayed reporting the circumstance to your Excellency until they shall see fit to submit a modified claim.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. BACKHOUSE.

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Ms. Rowena T Robinson

on 29 March, 2019

CHINA.

CORRESPONDENCE with the Superintendent of British Trade in China, upon the subject of Emigration from that Country.

Presented to the House of Commons by Command of Her Majesty. August 20, 1853.

LONDON:
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